



No 3,840

# THE INDEPENDENT

MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY 1999

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TOKEN COLLECT

## Blunkett backs apologetic Woodhead over sex gaffe

DAVID BLUNKETT, the Secretary of State for Education, gave his backing yesterday to Chris Woodhead after the Chief Inspector of Schools apologised for saying that sexual relationships between teachers and pupils could be "educative".

Mr Blunkett said that Mr Woodhead would continue to make a very important contribution towards raising classroom standards.

BY JUDITH JUDD  
AND COLIN BROWN

On Wednesday, Mr Woodhead may face further questioning when he appears before a committee of MPs which is investigating his Office for Standards in Education. Tomorrow, he will deliver his annual report on the state of schools.

Mr Woodhead accepted yesterday that he had made a mis-

take as he tried to reassure one member of his student-teacher audience and said that the views he had expressed were not his true views. He hoped that he would be judged on his contribution as chief inspector and not on a 30-second remark.

He told GMTV's *Sunday Programme*: "I readily admit I made a mistake. I can only apologise for giving the wrong impression, but I hope I can

explain why I said what I did on that occasion."

During a question-and-answer session with 200 trainee teachers at Exeter University 11 days ago, one asked: "There has been a recent debate on teacher-pupil relationships of a certain nature. Do you think that any teacher who has been involved in such unpleasant action should have any place in the education system?"

In the course of his reply, Mr Woodhead suggested that the "messes" resulting from such relationships could be "educative". Legislation which would make relationships between teachers and under-18-year-olds a criminal offence and carry a jail sentence of up to two years is at present before Parliament.

Mr Woodhead told GMTV: "A student asked a question after

the lecture I had given and I thought that there was a personal dimension to the question, that there may be a problem here and I tried to reassure that student in the answer I gave. And I readily admit that in trying to do that I overstepped the mark."

He believed that teachers were in a position of authority over pupils and it was important this was not abused.

He added: "I didn't for one moment think that the comments I made to that student would be leaked to The Independent newspaper and splashed over the pages of every other paper in the land."

Mr Blunkett said Mr Woodhead had given a very clear explanation of his remarks and had apologised. "He has obviously made - and I am confident he will continue to make

a very important contribution to the scrutiny of our schools and the drive to improve standards within them. Despite what Chris Woodhead has acknowledged to be an unfortunate incident, I believe it does not prevent him from continuing to do his job effectively."

Unworldly teacher, page 3  
Leading article,  
Anne McElroy,  
Review, page 3

## Son of Hussein inherits a heavy burden

THROUGH THE fog, you could hear the voices from half a mile away. "With our blood, with our soul, we sacrifice ourselves for you."

And as the mist swept around me - such wind, such very thick fog - I could see tiny squares above the thousands of shrouded figures outside the hospital. Their posters portrayed the dead king who lay only a few hundred metres from us: fighter pilot Hussein, Bedouin warrior Hussein, Field Marshal Hussein. But not a single photograph of the king and his son together. The new King Abdullah - how strange, that name sounds - was not in the thoughts of the screaming men or of the old woman who prostrated herself in the torrent of freezing water streaming down the roadway.

By ROBERT FISK  
in Amman

through the suffocating, frozen fog, as lost to the Jordanians today as it was when King Hussein's army retreated almost three decades ago.

So now this odd, fragile, brave, often infuriating little land has another British military graduate to run its affairs. Sandhurst, Oxford, Georgetown, tank commander and general with his very own Praetorian Guard. His special forces - one of those supposedly "crack" units which breed all over the Middle East - have put down a riot or two over the past few years, and you couldn't help wondering how Abdullah would have dealt with the crowds outside the King Hussein Medical Centre yesterday.

They pushed at the police lines, they sobbed into their hands, they collapsed fainting on to the mud outside the gates. I thought one of the policemen was just mouthing something he'd heard on the television when he told me that King Hussein had been a father to him. And then I realised that behind his thin-framed spectacles he was crying.

You only had to watch these people - and the uncontrollable nature of their grief - to understand how heavy will be the burden for King Abdullah. To a Westerner, to a tourist, Jordan is a friendly little sandpit of Roman ruins, rock palaces, camels and an old railway blown up by another English officer, Colonel Lawrence.

But these are also a wounded people, 85 per cent of whom can count their Palestinian dispossess in their family tree. Abdullah has inherited from his father a Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty which many of his people - and a good few in the fog outside the hospital, I dare say - would like to tear to pieces.

Already the new king is receiving the dangerous praises of Jordan's friends - from Iraq, from Syria, from Israel, from President Clinton. How they



King Abdullah pays respects in front of a portrait of his father after being sworn in yesterday

Reuters

love the new young king, how they honour him and wish him well. "The life and soul of any party," a friend of the family put it to me last week. "Abdullah is a great man for jokes." True, Abdullah will need a sense of humour. But he will also have to learn to be hated and despised, like King Hussein.

His dead father, after all, was repudiated for his disastrous participation in the 1967 war and for his support for Saddam Hussein after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait. How we hated him then. Then the king made peace with Israel and incurred the wrath of many of his own people. How we loved him then.

What did Abdullah think when he heard those easy television clichés about his brave

but often misunderstood (and oft-betrayed) father yesterday, words - these are authentic quotations - that in some cases came from the very reporters who cheerfully predicted his demise in 1991? "Unassassable moral authority", "a visionary for peace", "a man of great charisma" with an "unquestioned" legacy, a man who "always wanted to give his people the rights that they deserved".

What was that legacy again? Unquestioned? And what political rights did his people receive? a vote for a rubber-stamp parliament and the knowledge that the secret police would not call at three in the morning. Yet if any of the Jordanian "men-in-the-street" talking to the news networks about King Abdullah here yes-

terday had strayed from the permitted path - just like his father, a soldier-king, a chip off the old block in fact - then they would have been taken off to His Majesty's constabulary for a thumping.

Just before the King's death, Abdullah had invited Washington and New York journalists to meet him for an off-the-record chat about the future, an amiable occasion, since American journalists tend to write and talk like State Department spokesmen. Faith in the "peace process", trust in the West, amorous for good relations with all his neighbours, sympathy for the Iraqi people but no love for Saddam; it was predictable stuff.

But the real world is not that simple. Jordanians don't hate

Saddam and many of them have regained their old hostility and distrust of an Israel that goes on building West Bank Jewish settlements on land which many Jordanians own.

I didn't like that fog outside the hospital yesterday evening, and I walked back through the street to find a car that would take me to Amman. It was a Palestinian in a rusty Peugeot who stopped for me. A Jordanian radio news broadcast was blasting from his transistor. "They say Abdullah is just like his father," Nidal shouted above the radio. "They say the country is unified, that everything will go on as before." Then he gave his right hand a little twist, the way Arabs do when they want to indicate an open question. "Maybe," he said.

## MPs prescribed Viagra by doctor in the House

By COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

A LABOUR MP who is also a GP has been bombarded, discreetly of course, with requests from colleagues wanting to get their hands on the anti-impotence drug, Viagra.

Howard Stoate, who is the MP for Dartford and still a practising family doctor, has privately prescribed the diamond-shaped blue pills for at least two of his colleagues after they approached him for help. Dr Stoate prescribed Viagra privately "a couple of times" to the MP's because, as he is not their family doctor, he is prevented from prescribing it on the NHS.

"They were not Saturday night funsters. They were people who would seriously qualify for Viagra. They are not people saying 'I can only manage it twice a night, doc - can you give me something to manage it four times a night,'" he said.

The difficulty is there is no really coherent medical system for MPs available in the House if they are 200 miles away from home. You can go to Boots and see what they can do for you, or you can sit in casually in St Thomas' Hospital, or you can find a local GP and sign on as a temporary resident, but they



would be reluctant to talk about that to a GP who they have never met before. There is a real gap in the Commons."

He refuses to divulge the names of the MPs to whom he prescribed the drug, saying he must protect confidentiality, but that will not stop a back-bench whispering campaign to identify the Viagra users in the Parliamentary Labour Party. In an interview for The House magazine Dr Stoate said he had only been approached by people in his own party.

Dr Stoate is talking to the Commons administration committee about allowing him the right to prescribe on the NHS at the House. There is a Commons nurse, but she cannot prescribe and most MPs would almost certainly be too embarrassed to ask her for Viagra.

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TODAY'S TELEVISION BACK PAGE

# Grieving nation brought to a halt

AS NEWS of King Hussein's death spread through Amman yesterday, masses of mourning Jordanians ventured out in the driving rain and mist, many carrying black flags.

Thousands drove to the al-Hussein medical centre on the outskirts of Amman to wait for his body to be removed.

In the markets in the heart of the capital, traders pulled down the metal shutters of their businesses and closed as a sign of respect for their king.

For almost half a century, he had manoeuvred his small country, often changing alliances, to protect it from more powerful neighbours, notably Israel and Iraq.

"He was a very special man," said a father as he waited to pick up his children from a school that had just closed.

The 63-year-old monarch died at 11.43am yesterday after lying unconscious for more than two days in hospital. He had flown back from the United States to die in Jordan last week when a bone-marrow transplant at an American clinic failed to halt his lymphatic cancer.

Crown Prince Abdullah, his 37-year-old eldest son, was immediately proclaimed the new king by the cabinet. He later went to swear to respect the constitution before the Jor-

danian parliament, where deputies wrapped their red-and-white keffiyehs (head-dresses) across their faces in a traditional sign of sorrow.

President Bill Clinton, Tony Blair and the Prince of Wales will be among the many world figures attending today's funeral in Amman.

"No words can convey what King Hussein meant to the people he led for nearly half a century," said Mr Clinton. "No words can convey what he meant to me as a friend and an inspiration."

Even Iraq, so often at odds with Jordan, has sent Vice-President Taha Ma'rouf for the funeral.

Work in the Jordanian capital will halt today as King Hussein is buried. Despite forecasts for more heavy rain, most of the population of the capital is expected to attend. One Jordanian official said: "We face a logistics problem - not a security problem."

However, officials do face concerns over the expected presence of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, amid so many Arab leaders who detest him.

The funeral cortège will wind through the streets of Amman according to a schedule which officials have been preparing ever since it was announced that the King's treatment had failed and he was close to death.

The grief shown in Amman yesterday displays King Hussein's genuine popularity mixed with public apprehension over the future.

Outside the hospital, women sobbed and fainted. Other Jordanians, who are not used to the cold, groped their way in the winter mist to express sorrow.

Police prevented vehicles from being driven up to the hospital. Groups of young men formed under the awnings of small shops around the al-Hussein mosque, talking softly and anxiously. Elsewhere, people looked worried rather than deeply shocked by the news of King's demise.

This may be because his death had been expected. Indeed, many Jordanians believed that he died several days ago. This is because the Jordanian media had given less coverage of the King's illness than many foreign newspapers.

When he returned unconscious from America, local newspapers, radio and television said he was seriously ill, but gave no details.

If the government had hoped to allay public alarm, its censorship had exactly the opposite effect.

Starved of information about the one topic in which people were interested, street rumour ran ahead of the facts. "I'm sure



Mourners surge towards police outside the al-Hussein medical centre in Amman, where the King died yesterday. Some women fainted with grief

Jockel Fink

he's already dead and the government is keeping quiet about it," said one woman, 24 hours before the death was announced.

Jordanians are shaken not only by the news of their king's death, but by a series of dramatic events over the past three weeks.

First there was his return from apparently successful cancer treatment in the US last month.

He had lost all his hair during chemotherapy, and he

looked pale and walked as if each movement was an effort. But he stood to greet hundreds of officials and leaders at the airport. Then he drove through the streets of Amman - as rain-soaked as they were again yesterday.

In a bitter, rambling letter, King Hussein accused Prince Hassan of smears against his wife, Queen Noor, and of meddling with the army.

Within days, the monarch's condition deteriorated and he returned to the US for final, unsuccessful surgery.

## You could feel the greatness in him'

BY KATHY MARKS

WORLD LEADERS mourned King Hussein yesterday, paying tribute to a courageous visionary who pursued peace in a volatile region. Many sent personal messages of condolence reflecting the warm regard in which they held him and their sorrow at his passing.

"I mourn the loss of a partner and a friend," said President Bill Clinton. King Aman, the UN Secretary General, spoke of his "deep and personal sense of grief" at the death of a man "whose true majesty found expression in a lifelong struggle to bring peace".

In Britain, the tributes were

led by Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, who described King Hussein as "a man of rare vision, integrity and courage, whose leadership over nearly 50 years did so much for Jordan, its people and the region".

The flag over Buckingham Palace flew at half-mast as a mark of respect to a man regarded as a special friend to Britain. The Queen and the Royal Family were said to be "deeply saddened".

The Russian President, Boris Yeltsin, sent a message to King Hussein's son and suc-

cessor, King Abdullah, telling him "Your father... was invaluable to the formation of a new image of the Middle East, free of stereotypes of confrontation and enmity".

In Israel, the Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, showed praise on the late King, saying: "There was no one more gracious, considerate and kind, no one... more capable of understanding and empathy." And in a moving statement, Leah Rabin, widow of the assassinated Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, said: "We are sad for his absence and we hope that King Abdullah will be a good replacement."

Elsewhere in the Middle East, reaction was muted. The Egyptian President, Hosni Mubarak, described King Hussein as "an Arab leader who dedicated his thoughts and life to the service of his nation's causes".

The Libyan leader, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, confined himself to brief condolences. In Syria, Jordan's powerful neighbour and critic, Foreign Minister Farouq Sharaa said: "We are sad for his absence and we hope that King Abdullah will be a good replacement."

Iraq's most influential newspaper offered sympathy but warned that Israel might try to divide its territory. Beirut, owned by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday, said: "Our hearts are with our brave people in Jordan who we hope will overcome this ordeal."

Leaders of European nations including France, Spain, Italy, Germany and the Czech Republic paid tribute. President Thomas Klestil of Austria told his widow, Queen Noor, that Austria has lost "a great friend, whose personal solidarity with our country will always be remembered and appreciated".

## WORLD WHO'S WHO AT FUNERAL

Emir Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa of Bahrain; King Albert and Queen Paola of Belgium; Tony Blair, the Conservative leader, William Hague, and the Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown; The Prince of Wales; The Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak; The French President, Jacques Chirac; The German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder; The Iraqi Vice-President Taha Ma'rouf; The Irish President, Mary McAleese; The Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin

Netanyahu; The Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi; The Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Saad al-Abdullah al-Sabah; Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands; The Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat; The Russian President, Boris Yeltsin; The Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Abdullah; King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain; The UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan; The US President, Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton, plus the former presidents George Bush, Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford.

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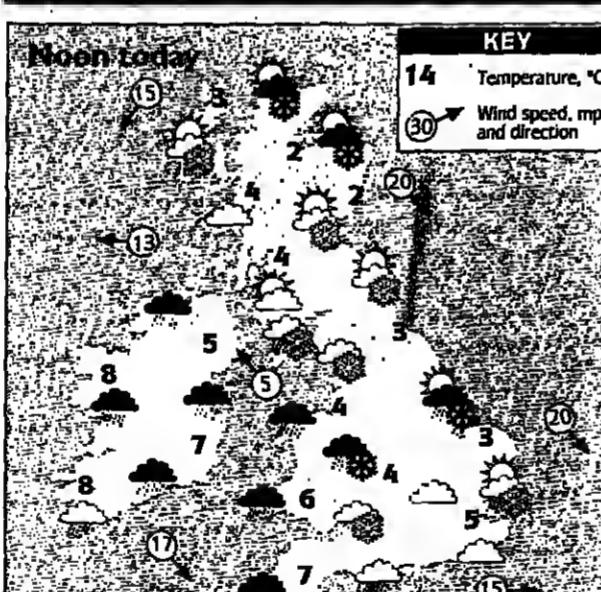
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### BRITAIN TODAY



### FORECAST

General situation: It will be another very cold day with a widespread early frost. The cold air will move south and the temperature will be one or two degrees and snow showers. Showers will also be scattered across northern Scotland with sunny breaks in between. Northern Ireland may see some snow for a while but this will soon turn to rain. This will spread eastwards bringing rain at a time to southern Scotland, northern England and Wales, with some significant falls on hills.

SE England, London: A cold day. A bright start but cold wind will bring rain or sleet later. A freshening westerly wind. Max temp 3-5°C (37-41°F).

E Anglia, E, NE & C: England, Midlands: A mix of sunny spells, sheet snow showers. A moderate north-westerly wind. Max temp 3-5°C (37-41°F).

SW England, Wales, C: England: Becoming increasingly dull with rain in the afternoon, perhaps followed by sleet over the hills. The Channel Islands should escape the wintry weather, but will have rain. A freshening westerly wind. Max temp 4-7°C (39-45°F).

NE & SE Scotland, C: England, Wales: More places will see some snow, although there is a chance the east may stay dry with sunny spells. A light and variable wind, becoming moderate north-easterly. Max temp 1-4°C (34-37°F).

NW & N: Scotland, N & W Isles: Very cold with snow showers. A fresh northerly wind. Max temp 0-3°C (32-37°F).

### OUTLOOK

Tuesday will again be cold with a mix of sunny spells and wintry showers, the best of the sunshine in the south. Wintry showers should become confined to the north and east on Wednesday but it will stay cold everywhere.

### TRAVEL

London: A12 Green Man Roundabout, Leytonstone. Major roadworks on new M11 road. Until 31st December. Closure of A10, A107, Finsbury and M11. Resurfacing and bridge maintenance work at Shepperton Mill. Until 14th February. Bristol: M5 J16-18. Major roadworks on M5 between J16 and J18. Between Cheltenham. Closed due to roadworks in Cheltenham. Diversion in place. Until 1st June. B4060: Between Gloucester Docks, Gloucester and 28th February. AA Roadwatch: Call 0836 401 7777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

### LIGHTING UP

Worcest: High 7°C (45°F)

Coldest: (day) Kinross 0°C (32°F)

Wettest: Scalby 0.83 ins

Sunniest: Beulah 6.0 hrs

For 24hrs to 2pm Sunday

Sun Rain Max °C °F

Aberdeen 1.7 0.08 4 35

Angus 0.0 0.08 4 36

Ayrshire 0.0 0.08 4 36

Bedf 0.0 0.08 7 45

Bristol 0.5 0.04 8 46

Bournemouth 5.6 0.0 10 50

Brighton 1.0 0.02 5 36

Brecon 0.6 0.07 5 45

Cardiff 1.4 0.01 11 52

Clacton 2.0 0.07 7 45

Croydon 4.0 0.02 7 45

Dartmoor 0.3 0.01 8 45

Douglas 0.5 0.01 9 48

Folkestone 0.2 0.01 8 46

Glasgow 3.0 0.05 7 45

Hastings 2.1 0.01 9 45

Hove 2.2 0 9 48

Isle of Man 0.2 0.02 8 46

Jersey 0.6 0 10 50

Kendal 0.1 0 10 50

Leeds 1.0 0.01 8 46

Leicester 2.7 0 11 52

London 0.0 0 10 50

Lowestoft 0.0 0.02 7 45

Manchester 0.4 0.35 10 50

Margate 0.4 0.01 9 48

Morecambe 1.1 0.01 7 45

Newcastle 0.6 0.06 8 46

Nottingham 1.1 0.01 7 45

Nottingh 1.1 0.01 7 45

Nottingh

Woodhead controversy: Ofsted chief backed by politicians as Exeter lecture audience cast doubt on his explanation

# An unworldly teacher who became the hated scourge of his profession

BY JUDITH JUDGE  
Education Editor

CHRIS WOODHEAD rarely apologises. He is both admired and detested because he is a man who deals in certainties. His detractors include most teachers, who see him as the scourge of the profession who depresses morale by castigating schools for low standards and treacherous teaching methods. They argue that his confrontational style involves so much stick and so little carrot that he will never improve schools.

His admirers include politicians of every party who believe that he is a courageous crusader for parents and children who, for too long, have had to put up with an inadequate education system. For some commentators and newspapers he is a hero whose every word is revered. He has reportedly dined with Prince Charles at Highgrove and he and his partner have taken tea with the Prime Minister.

It is true that he is unpopular with teachers partly because of the body he heads: the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) has brought a new system of regular inspection to schools; the bottom line for a bad inspection report is failure and sometimes closure. And individual teachers are graded.

Perhaps teachers need a hate figure on whom they can vent their anger about a decade of change which has overturned their world. But the chief inspector's personal style must play some part in the difficult relationship between the profession and Ofsted. In Wales, for instance, where a similar regime has been brought in, there has been no outcry from teachers.

One Labour politician, a Woodhead fan, said: "Seventy-five per cent of what he does is absolutely right. But there are some question marks over the rest." Mr Woodhead argues that he speaks as he does because that is the only way to bring improvements to a system which is resistant to change. He also enjoys his combative role. When he is attacked, he comes out fighting and relishes a good scrap.

He began his job in 1993 by writing an article in the *Daily Mail* headlined "Sack the Useless Teachers". In an interview at the time he remarked: "An element of threat is not necessarily a bad thing. I personally respond to threats. The education system has been immune to any kind of threat for too long."



Chris Woodhead talking to a pupil at Park School, Barnstaple. The chief inspector began his career teaching English in several schools

## WORLD OF WOODHEAD

"If the teaching profession is unable or unwilling to implement change, then standards of teaching are not going to rise. Thus far, many teachers have shown themselves resistant to change. Good schools recognise their weaknesses and act upon them. Poor schools and poor teachers drift from year to year, repeating the mistakes of the past."

Daily Mail  
5 September 1994

"There appears to be an agreement that it is in nobody's interests for such [poor] teachers to remain in the profession. That agreement must now be translated into management action."

Daily Mail  
6 February 1996

"It is the burial of a concept of primary education that says that in some mysterious way the innate potential of each child has merely to be unlocked."

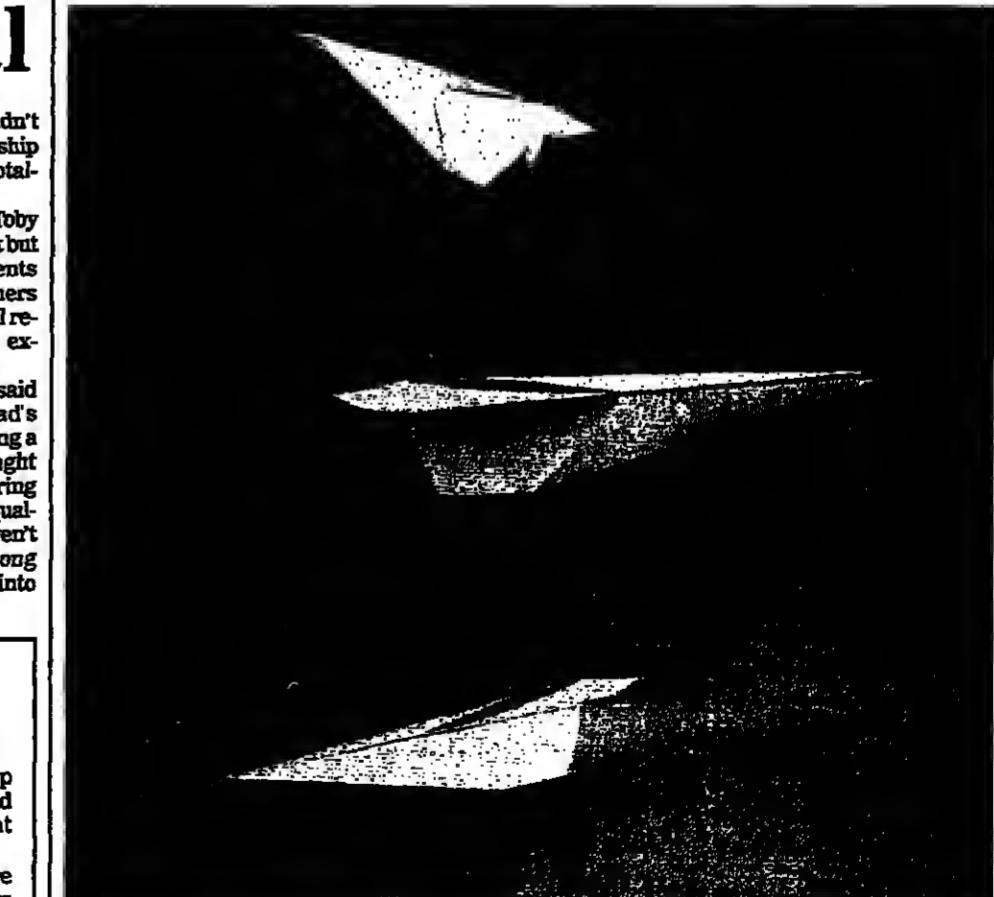
Daily Mail  
3 June 1996

"As adults or relative adults we have a responsibility to those who are younger than us and therefore it [sexual relations between pupils and teachers] isn't a good idea at all. But I don't think necessarily that a teacher should be automatically drummed out of the profession. I think human beings can get themselves into messes and I think those messes can sometimes be experiential and educative on both sides."

The Independent  
6 February 1999

"My comments should not be taken in that context. It is not my true stance."

The Observer  
7 February 1999



## Student denies question was personal

BY JANE HUGHES AND  
ANDREW MULLINS

in Exeter after a weekend with his family in Truro.

But fellow students said he had asked the question because he was interested in Woodhead's position on legislation going through Parliament and knew of his affair with a former pupil. "Toby had asked one of our lecturers about the question and she thought it was really funny and wanted him to ask it and see what happened," said Laura-Sue Elston, 23, a final year student.

Students from the Rowan croft Halls of Residence where Mr Parkin lives said they

## THE INDEPENDENT

Sex between teachers and pupils can be 'educative' – schools chief



How 'The Independent' broke the story on Saturday

thought it was unlikely Mr Woodhead would have responded in the same way had he not had an affair with one of his own former pupils. They did not condone the relationship

but said that it had happened a long time ago and they were more concerned about Mr Woodhead's position on the issue today. "That sort of character trait doesn't go away," said

Miss Elston. "We wouldn't dream of having a relationship with a pupil because it is totally unprofessional."

Andy Bright, 21, said: "Toby wasn't able to catch him out but I don't think his comments were right because teachers and students have a special relationship and you can't exploit that."

One student teacher said he thought Mr Woodhead's claim that he was reassuring a trainee teacher he "thought was in trouble" did not ring true. "None of us are fully qualified teachers yet. We haven't been in the profession long enough to get ourselves into that kind of bother."

## 'My teacher abused his position and me'

BY JANE RYAN

MIKE WAS 26 and married. I was 14 and precocious. There was a chemistry between us and within months we were having a relationship. But looking back on my affair with my teacher, I see it was nothing less than exploitation and a serious abuse of my trust.

Chris Woodhead's remarks about sex between teachers and pupils were ignorant and dangerous. When a harmless pupil teacher crush becomes a sexual relationship it exceeds the boundaries of acceptability. It is fraught with conflict for the teacher and pupil and for the parents, who entrusted their child to the school, it is an act of gross betrayal.

My school, a mixed Catholic comprehensive, was in two buildings, a 15-minute walk apart. Mike would often sit to pupils. He was a real laid-back

Sixties type. He smoked in class, rarely wore a suit, kept his hair long and treated pupils like equals. He managed to combine an easy-going defiance with a serious commitment to his profession. He was liked and respected by his colleagues and the kids.

There was a lot of eye contact; we kept "accidentally" brushing into each other. Eventually he asked me if I'd like to go for a drink. I knew it was wrong but I was flattered. The attentions of an older man appealed to my vanity, and the illicitness was addictive. Soon afterwards, we went for a drive in the country, and he kissed me. The relationship continued for two years before I had sex with him. He was worried about

having sex with me before I was 16.

Once it became a bit more serious, he left his wife and moved into a flat. I'd go there after school and at weekends, having concocted some lie.

At school, we took crazy risks. He had a storeroom at the back of his classroom, containing a few desks. It was quiet, private and an ideal place for me to "study". It became the perfect place for us to snatch a few moments while he dodged in and out of the class, teaching.

I loved the subject he taught, and wanted to do well. I'd often get top marks because I studied hard. I know he was tougher on me than the rest of the class, but I'm sure they suspected favouritism when I did well.

Then there was the trip to France for a handful of stu-

dents. Another teacher caught us in bed together, but he had his own reasons for not telling.

Eventually my parents did find out. I'd always pretended I was going out with other boys. But one night, when I was supposed to be out with "Dave", Dave called round. I was forced to tell them something of the truth. Although my parents never confronted Mike, he decided to leave the school and go and work abroad. I was heartbroken and I needed to share my feelings with someone. I decided to tell my best friend. I was shattered to discover he had slept with her and that she, too, was full of guilt and confusion.

His job abroad didn't work out, and after a few months he came back. I challenged him about my friend. He said it was nothing, and that they hadn't

had sex. The relationship limped along for a while and ended during my first term at university.

I had lived a lie for nearly five years. I'd taken so many risks – and all for nothing. I was young, and foolishly believed that when I finished university we'd be able to live together. It took me a long time to get over the affair.

I felt he'd abused the power

he held. But perhaps a more damning legacy of the affair is that I had to bury my feelings to make all that deception and betrayal bearable. The affair coloured the rest of my life and my relationships. I lost my heart to someone in a position of authority very early in my life, someone who betrayed his position, and then betrayed me.

Names in this article, including

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# Labour launch attack on Lib Dems

BY COLIN BROWN  
AND ANDREW GRICE

A DEEP rift in the closer relations between the Government and the Liberal Democrats has been opened by an internal Labour Party document warning supporters to "fight every Liberal because we know every Liberal because we know the Liberal game".

Tony Blair yesterday gave his authority to the party rank and file to go onto the attack against the Liberal Democrats at a Labour local government conference in Manchester, saying a vote for Paddy Ashdown's party was a "leap in the dark".

The tone of the attacks on the Liberal Democrats will be seen as evidence that the Lib-Lab co-operation at Cabinet level, which was set back by the resignation of Peter Mandelson and the decision by Mr Ashdown to stand down from his party's leadership, will be slowed down.

The internal Labour Party document, which *The Independent* has obtained, will also infuriate Liberal Democrats by emphasising the Government will not be rushed into holding a referendum on proportional representation for Westminster elections.

The memorandum says the system proposed by the Jenkins commission cannot be implemented before the next election because of a boundary review.

Frustration over the failure to make progress on PR before the next election may have played a part in Mr Ashdown's decision to step down.

Called *Making Britain Better*, the briefing note on the forthcoming local and European elections urges party rank and file supporters to highlight the hypocrisy of the Liberal Democrats' campaign.

"Social justice is our rallying cry. Social justice is a division between the parties. But don't

be kidding. We need to fight every Liberal too because we know the Liberal game. In one place they talk more Tory than Tories; in another, more Labour than Labour."

"And that's the difference we have to make clear. Labour is a national party, a party of principle. And those principles, our values, are the same for Labour in Scotland, Wales, England or Europe," says the memorandum.

Mr Blair remains personally committed to the modernisation "project" with the Liberal Democrats, but the attacks on the Liberal Democrats show that opponents of moves towards a coalition, led by John Prescott, appear to be succeeding in applying the brakes.

Another Cabinet critic, Margaret Beckett, Leader of the Commons and Labour's campaign co-ordinator, used the briefing's language yesterday at the Manchester conference, accusing the Liberal Democrats of "facing all ways at once".

She told supporters: "We want you to understand loud and clear: there are areas where the Liberals are actively fighting us – and where they are, we fight back."

The Prime Minister said he would continue to work with the Liberal Democrats on areas where they were agreed, such as the need to modernise the constitution.

But Mr Blair told party supporters to go onto the offensive where the Liberal Democrats were wrong: "They're wrong when they say a penny on income tax is the answer to every problem, especially when we've already spent several times what a penny would have raised".

ALL 14 of the other EU member-states are fighting to end or curb Britain's budget rebate, it emerged on the eve of today's meeting of finance ministers, which will debate reforms to the way Brussels is funded.

The opposition to the rebate, worth £2bn a year, was made clear at a recent meeting of permanent representatives to the EU when the British ambassador, Sir Stephen Wall, was outnumbered. A EU diplomat said: "On this issue it is 14 to 1".

But Britain's isolation has failed to bring any hint of concession from London, raising

the prospect of deadlock over ambitious plans to reform European finances.

At today's meeting of finance ministers in Brussels the rebate is likely to be raised as part of a more general discussions.

At earlier meetings British ministers dismissed reports of pressure, arguing that other member-states do not really expect the UK to relent.

The Government concedes the rebate will be hotly debated, although Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, is showing no sign of a willingness to re-negotiate, aware that no change could be agreed without British agreement. The Government is rejecting one compromise idea, which would prevent the rebate applying to areas of spending connected with proposed EU enlargement.

Ministers argue that even after the EU enlarges to the East, Britain will end up as a bigger net contributor than several richer countries. The new government is determined to end the era in which it bankrolled the Brussels budget

with a net contribution of £5bn a year. The Netherlands, Sweden and Austria are also pressing for cuts in their bills.

Commission officials say the outline of a settlement made up of several elements is becoming clear. A central feature is likely to be plans to freeze EU spending in real terms for the years 2000-2006.

The rebate, won by Margaret Thatcher in 1984, refunds 66 per cent of the difference between what the UK pays in VAT receipts and what it gets back from the CAP and structural funds.

IN Brussels

IN BRIEF

WILLIAM HAGUE'S colleagues hit back last night at Labour claims of hypocrisy after it emerged that the Conservative leader was flying to North America on a private jet loaned by a businessman.

Irvine Laidlaw, a Scottish industrialist, has lent Mr Hague an 11-seater Falcon jet for the trip – a donation estimated to be worth £70,000.

Labour ministers used the gift to attack the Tories, who have spent weeks bemoaning

them over their use of private jets and Concorde.

David Willetts, the shadow education secretary, insisted that the loan of a jet was above board and would be declared in the Commons Register of Members' Interests.

"What he [Mr Hague] has done is arrange a very packed tour," he told BBC1's *On the Record*. "He's not turning to the

taxpayers in any way to finance it. If you can find some source of private finance... provided it's properly declared, I don't think there's a problem."

Mr Hague is going to Canada and the United States to examine tactics he might use to attack Tony Blair's "third way". He will visit Toronto as part of a five-day tour to hear how Canadian Conservatives made a comeback after an election disaster. One Canadian Tory leader said they had started the

fightback by consulting local people and bypassing their own Conservative "elite".

At home, Mr Hague is surrounded by the "elite" from the defeated Tory government. A former minister, Philip Oppenheim, who runs a Cuban bar near London's Waterloo station, said that, despite Mr Hague's speech championing a "British way", the Tories were still "arrogant and out of touch".

Godfrey Hodgson, Review page 4

IN BRIEF

UNIONS BACK MORGAN FOR ASSEMBLY

RHODRI MORGAN, who is running for the leadership of the Welsh Assembly, claimed that he had the support of 72 per cent of members polled in the Transport and General Workers' Union, compared with 28 per cent for Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary. Mr Morgan also got the backing of Unison union members by almost three to one.

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A BRITISH couple are considering cloning as a solution to their infertility problem. Computer consultant Peter Blackburn, 31, who with his wife Idiloo, 29, is appearing on BBC1's *Panorama* programme tonight said: "A cloned child would be part of a family and it would be loved."

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AN EIGHTY-YEAR-OLD schoolgirl who bravely overcame the trauma of being bitten on the face and scarred for life in a dog attack was among 150 youngsters given Child of Achievement Awards in London yesterday. Jessica Brooks, from Abingdon, Oxfordshire, was said to be an inspiration to others.

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THE POP group Blondie yesterday took the number one slot in the charts after an absence of nearly 17 years. Their single *Mario* became their sixth number one, more than a decade after their original dominance of the charts.

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FIVE TICKET-HOLDERS shared last night's £8.1m National Lottery jackpot. The winning numbers were 17, 40, 38, 2, 49 and 23. The bonus number was 10.

SATURDAY'S LOTTERY UPDATE

Draw date: 2/2/99. The winning numbers: 2, 17, 23, 38, 40, 49. Bonus number: 10. Total Sales: £25,250,438. Prize Fund: £24,862,697 (45% of ticket sales).

CATEGORY NO. OF WINNERS AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER TOTAL EACH TIER

Match 6 (jackpot) 5 £1,007,650 £5,038,800

Match 5 plus bonus ball 34 £74,193 £2,552,212

Match 5 839 £1,578 £1,578,642

Match 4 49,313 £70 £3,481,910

Match 3 909,675 £10 £9,088,750

TOTALS 980,066 £24,845,774

Total Sales including Instants and Wednesday Draw: £90,509,102. Total week's contribution to Good Causes: £26,300,000. Breakage (amount rounded down to nearest £1): £16,972. © Camelot Group plc. Players must be 18 or over.

IN BRIEF

NEW SCOTS PAPER IN CROWDED MARKET

BY RYHS WILLIAMS

IT'S pretty to look at, but the content left me cold. The paper is going to have to fight hard if it is to create a gap for itself... Even the shade of blue on the front page looks like Scotland on Sunday."

ALTHOUGH all the London-produced Sundays will be ranged against it, *The Sunday Herald* though there seems to be room for another title, there is some doubt whether the seven-section *Sunday Herald* is the paper to do it.

Edited by Andrew Jaspan, a former *Observer* editor, it is backed by the Glasgow-based Scottish Media Group, which owns the STV and Grampian television companies and publishes the *Herald* daily.

Scots already have 12 Sunday titles, six broadsheet. Around three-quarters of Scots read Sundays compared with less than two-thirds in England.

Tom Brown, a commentator with the Glasgow-based tabloid *Daily Record*, said: "My first reaction... was not so much Big Bang as a solid thump. It looks better than it really is. It's a triumph of design over content."

Glasgow is the media capital of Scotland and it's where people would expect a national paper to be produced. This is Scotland's only quality Sunday newspaper now that *Scotland on Sunday* has dumbed down the way it has."

Rob Brown, deputy editor of *The Sunday Herald*, insisted that the new paper was for the whole of Scotland.

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Cars to arrest their drivers

THE INDEPENDENT  
Monday 8 February 1999

# Up to 200 surgeons 'carrying hepatitis'

UP TO 200 surgeons in Britain are carrying a virus which could cause hepatitis and liver cancer in their patients.

The surgeons are carriers of a low-risk form of hepatitis B and had been thought to be incapable of transmitting the infection. However, *The Independent* has learned that six patients have been infected by "low-risk" surgeons since 1993. Two of the patients died.

Pressure is growing on the Government to ban all surgeons infected with hepatitis B as a result of the cases. Under current health department guidelines issued in 1993, surgeons have to be tested for hepatitis B and those found to be high risk are banned from operating. However, those at low risk, based on the presence of antibodies to the virus in their blood, are permitted to continue operating.

In 1997, a woman of 83 died after becoming infected with hepatitis B during a hip replacement operation at a hospital in north Wales. Last June, her surgeon, Sanjay Ingle, 32, was found guilty of serious professional misconduct by the General Medical Council and banned from operating for three years. Counsel for the GMC said the case raised urgent questions about the guidelines which "should be revised".

In 1996, a 77-year-old woman died a few months after contracting the infection during surgery at Hillingdon hospital, west London. Her surgeon, an orthopaedic registrar, was also found to have been low risk.

Fears are growing among NHS trusts in the wake of the six cases that the guidelines are not tough enough and that they may be in breach of their duty of care for patients if they allow hepatitis B surgeons to operate. Dr Reger Cooke, a specialist in

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

occupational medicine who advises several trusts in the Midlands, said: "I am aware of trusts turning applicants down for surgery posts whether they are high or low risk."

In November, Dr Jeremy Metters, deputy chief medical officer and chairman of the Government's advisory committee on hepatitis B, ordered a survey of all NHS trusts to establish the number of health-care workers performing invasive procedures with low-risk hepatitis B.

Professor Jangul Banatvala, immediate past chairman of the advisory committee and head of clinical virology at St Thomas' Hospital, London, said: "The guidelines do need revising. We have to take this seriously but we can only do so if there is some action we can take. The risks are low and banning all surgeons with hepatitis could result in more deaths if it led to an increase in waiting lists. If we were having an operation today I would worry much less about hepatitis B than about the other risks of surgery."

Research was going on in London and Birmingham to devise a more sensitive test for hepatitis B. One solution would be to introduce universal vaccination against hepatitis B to protect the population against the virus. Almost 100 countries now practice routine vaccination, including all of Western Europe except the UK, the Netherlands and Scandinavia.

"I think universal vaccination is justified. It should be brought in," Professor Banatvala said.

A spokeswoman for the health department said: "We are aware of the issue. The current guidelines are under review."



Garth Brooks, whose music will today be included in an Internet trial that could revolutionise the music business

## Downloadable CDs to rival stores

THE WORLD'S five biggest record companies will today launch a scheme to offer music downloadable direct from the Internet in a move which could signal the end of the traditional record shop.

The trial, in San Diego, will enable 2,000 specially-selected Internet surfers to place orders for albums and download them direct to their computers via a cable modem in six minutes.

The result will be CD quality sound via a secure Internet link. But the price - around \$12.99 (£7.99) - will be no cheaper than that charged in ordinary US record shops.

The move is being pioneered by EMI, Sony, Time-Warner, Bertelsmann and Seagram, owner of Universal and PolyGram, who together control 80

BY NIGEL COPE  
Associate City Editor

per cent of the world's music business. Their aim is to counter the growing problem of music piracy on the Internet from where people can download songs for free using a format called MP3.

The problems have been compounded by the launch of an MP3 player, called Diamond Rio, which can play up to an hour of digital recordings using no disc or tape.

Under the codename "Program Madison", the music companies have linked up with IBM to provide the 2,000 participants with recordable compact disc machines which will capture the digital recordings much quicker than MP3

recordings and in a way that is financially secure.

The scheme will involve only a limited number of albums but they will be taken from the major labels' huge rosters. For instance, EMI has the Rolling Stones, the Spice Girls, Garth Brooks and the Smashing Pumpkins on its books.

Though the record companies say they hope to work with the retailers to provide the service, it is understood that some of the Big Five are keen to bypass the high street altogether.

"Selling direct is an issue that has not yet been resolved," said an EMI spokesman. "We want to find out how the technology works and what the customer reaction is."

Critics of the scheme say the music majors will find it difficult

to replace the retailers. "If they band together to fight the retailers they would be hit by an anti-trust suit before they even started," said Will Whitehorn, a spokesman for Virgin which owns the Virgin Megastores.

Mr Whitehorn says even the most optimistic forecasts show that the Internet will account for just 5 per cent of US music sales by 2003-4 and the same figure in Europe by 2009.

Alan Giles, chief executive of HMV Media said: "You could view it as an opportunity for retailers rather than a threat. This will allow retailers to offer balance, recommendations and a choice that would not be available direct from the music companies." Mr Giles added that music shops would continue to have a role for the sim-

ple reason that many people enjoy shopping.

Traditional retailers are already being attacked by online music stores such as CDNow and Music Boulevard, which can offer lower prices, and new competition is arriving all the time. In April Virgin's new music label V2 is planning a scheme that will enable shoppers to listen to songs and view pop videos before deciding to download a song digitally.

It will undercut the traditional retailers on price but has not yet disclosed by how much. The scheme is set for launch in the US in April and in the UK in June.

Separately yesterday, FNAC France's leading music and books retailer announced plans to sell songs over the Internet. Quoteline can be contacted on 0800 002200.

## Film award judges honour Caine's 'triumphant career'

THE BRITISH film industry saluted Michael Caine last night as he was presented with a special award for his contribution to cinema.

The judges of the Evening Standard British Film Awards said they "felt bound to acknowledge his contribution and commitment to an industry that has shown a remarkable upturn in fortunes over the last year". He has already won a Golden Globe for his performance as a sleazy agent in the current release *Little Voice*.

Caine's "triumphant" international career has brought honour and glory to the UK cinema", added the judging panel of British film critics. Tribute was paid to him at the ceremony at London's Savoy Hotel by Julie Walters, his co-star in *Educating Rita*.

And in what turned into a cel-

BY DAVID LISTER  
Arts News Editor

eration of several careers that began in the Sixties, there was another special achievement award for the director Ken Loach, while the best actress award went to Julie Christie for her performance as a former starlet in *Afterglow*, and the best actor to Sir Derek Jacobi for his portrayal of artist Francis Bacon in *Love is the Devil*.

The judges said that Ken Loach's latest film *My Name Is Joe* ranked among his finest work and the award recognised his "ceaseless struggle to make films that speak of the human predicament".

The director John Boorman collected the best film award for *The General*, which he also wrote. He received the award from the Hollywood actor John



Caine in 'Little Voice'

the hand of a master filmmaker at his peak".

The award for best screenplay went to Eileen Atkins for her adaptation of Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway*. And the Peter Sellers award for Comedy was presented by Hollywood actor Richard Dreyfuss to Bill Nighy for his angst-ridden ageing rock star in *Still Crazy*.

Cinematographer Ashley Rowe won best technical achievement award for his work on four films (*Still Crazy*, *The Governess*, *The Woodlanders* and *Twenty Four/Seven*). The most promising newcomer award was won by Guy Ritchie for *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*.

The two British triumphs of this year, *Shakespeare in Love* and *Hilary and Jackie* were released too late to be eligible for the 1998 awards.

## Met seeks fresh Lawrence leads

THE TEAM of detectives investigating the murder of Stephen Lawrence is following up several new leads, the Metropolitan Police said yesterday, nearly six years after the black teenager was stabbed by a racist gang.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Grieve, the head of the force's racial and violent crime taskforce, paid a visit last Wednesday to Eltham, in south-east London, where Stephen was attacked in 1993.

He walked around the murder scene and some of the surrounding streets.

Mr Grieve, who took charge of the murder squad 10 days ago, also hosted a meeting at Scotland Yard of all the intelligence analysts who have worked on the case.

It was there that "a number of ways forward" were identified, according to a statement that was issued yesterday.

BY KATHY MARKS

Scotland Yard declined to comment on reports yesterday that detectives are considering bringing new charges against the five men who were widely regarded as the prime suspects: Jamie and Neil Acourt, Gary Dobson, David Norris and Luke Knight.

That prospect had been considered an impossibility, especially in the cases of Neil Acourt, Knight and Dobson, who were acquitted of the murder in 1996 after the collapse of a private prosecution brought by Stephen's parents. But according to the reports, the police have received legal advice that they could prosecute members of the gang for conspiracy to murder, affray and assault, if they gather new evidence.

He said: "This is about recruiting and image-building and it will also hopefully, un-

## Army launches fashion label

THE ARMY has unveiled its latest move in the battle to win new recruits with the launch of a new range of branded clothes, accessories and leisure wear.

The British military's first venture into the commercial market will see Army fleeces, T-shirts, baseball caps, combat-style trousers and mountain bikes complete with the logo - Army Be The Best - on sale from April.

The items, which also include wristwatches, walking boots, a ski-hat and stationery, will be sold for between £10 to £40.

Colonel Rory Clayton, the Army's head of recruitment marketing, hopes it will attract more of the 17 to 25-year-olds who form the basis of the Army's new recruits.

He said: "This is about recruiting and image-building and it will also hopefully, un-

derwrite much of the cost of our operation. After a long period when we have been forced by terrorism to withdraw from society, we want to make ourselves part of society again."

The range has been developed in connection with Saatchi and Saatchi with the aim of making the Army more visible.

In addition to the official slogan pens are available with a range of phrases including "Loaded with 9mm cartridges", "Loaded with lead" and "Left, write, left, write".

A Ministry of Defence spokesman added: "If we can use younger techniques to help us in our recruitment then that is what we will do. It is to heighten positive efforts of the Army not just to be the best but to be seen to be the best."

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# Most race attack victims 'are white'

**T**HE MAJORITY of victims of racial attacks are white, according to a report to be released next week by race relations watchdogs.

The disclosure, days before the release of the findings of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, will provoke intense debate over Britain's future direction as a multicultural society.

The Commission for Racial Equality, which has produced the report, called for detailed government research into the nature of racist attacks on the new 75 car the class, should a qual Harry BMW Boss, Reed

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BY IAN BURRELL  
Home Affairs Correspondent

He said: "It's absolutely clear in our view that you can be black and racist. Clearly the evidence we have shows that this is not just a white problem."

The CRE report, called *Racial Attacks and Harassment*, records that 238,000 white people told researchers they had been victims of a racial offence in a 12-month period, compared to 101,600 Asians and 32,000 blacks.

Race experts believe that many of the white victims could be Jewish, Irish or from other European minorities.

Other incidents result from tensions between the English, Welsh and Scottish, which are increasingly seen as racial.

It is believed that such white victims of crimes such as street robberies, where a disproportionate number of offenders are black, are reporting the incidents as race attacks.

Sir Herman said that the "white" category was "very broad" and that it did not necessarily follow that a white victim had been racially abused or attacked by someone of a different skin colour.

He said: "It is easy to put interpretations which are not accurate onto figures, and at the moment the figures are a bit too bald."

The CRE report, which draws on a wide range of government and academic research studies, comes as local authorities across England and Wales are conducting audits of race attacks.

Bradford Metropolitan District Council reported last month that police records of racial attacks showed that 52 per cent of victims were white, 9 per cent black and 35 per cent Asian. Suspects were described as 50 per cent Asian, 37 per cent white, 2 per cent black and 11 per cent unknown.

The CRE report points out that, because of their smaller numbers, members of minority ethnic groups are still far more likely to be victims of racial attacks than whites.

Some 8 per cent of Pakistani

found the five most common words used by whites to describe neighbouring Asians were "scrubbers", "dirty", "animals", "pigs" and "not British".

In response to such attitudes, eight young Asian men told the IPPR that they "would retaliate with physical force if they were provoked" and that they "hated these whites". Five said they had attacked white boys and would do so again.

Even in the more affluent London borough of Richmond and Hounslow, researchers found that "some black and Asian families had developed a hatred for white people".

Partly as a result of this, some whites now say they have been victims of racial offences.

But other white victims will be Irish, Jewish, gypsies and travellers. English settlers in Scotland and Scottish settlers in England. Dame Kim Stevens-Borg came to live in England because he was so impressed by the hospitality he received as a visiting football supporter during the Euro 96 tournament.

But in October he took his Sheffield employer to court for racial discrimination after his supervisor repeatedly referred to him as a "Danish bastard".

A report next week by the Refugee Council will show that the latest people to be targeted by racists in Britain are newly arrived Kosovar refugees.

Rachel Rees, of the Refugee Council, said many Kosovars in

## THE JEWISH FOOTBALLER



FOOTBALL'S ATTEMPTS to rid itself of racism received a setback last year when West Ham United's Israeli-born midfielder Eyal Berkovic revealed he had been subjected to anti-Semitic abuse from other players.

Berkovic claimed to have been barracked during an FA Cup tie against fellow Premiership club Blackburn

Rovers. He said: "It's the first time since I came to England that I've had this sort of thing from opposing players and I find it difficult to handle. It upset me badly."

Shortly afterwards, the player was subjected to further anti-Semitic comments from opposing supporters at a game at Bolton Wanderers.

Although anti-Semitism has been in steady decline in Britain for many years and physical attacks are now rare, there has been a notable rise in incidents of abusive behaviour.

Figures supplied by the Board of Deputies of British Jews show that there were 133 such incidents last year compared to 86 in 1997.

Mike Whine, a spokesman for the Board, said: "It tends to be a drip, drip of constant harassment or people. Although each incident may be fairly small it builds up to something fairly substantial." Occasionally more serious incidents of anti-Semitic assault last year and 31 incidents of racist damage to Jewish property.

IAN BURRELL

IN WHAT she describes as a racially motivated attack, Rose Woolf, 75, was mugged nine months ago near her home in Stepney Green, east London. "As I was walking along there were two Asian boys about 14 or 15 a bit ahead of me. Suddenly they stopped as if they were picking something up and then spun around, grabbed my bag and ran off. I lost some money, a purse, an umbrella and a rail ticket. If I had been an Asian woman of my age I don't think they would have done it. There is quite a lot of racial tension around here.

I'm not a racist and I know white boys also do bad things but most of the things [attacks] you read about in the East London

Advertiser every week seem to be by black people and Asians. I heard the same thing happened to an older lady who broke her collar bone. If I see a few boys around I get a bit nervous. I wear a coat with pockets now to carry things in."

Mrs Woolf added: "It really shook me up. I was lucky I wasn't hurt but it still took me a long time to get over it. Even the other day there was an Asian boy in front of me who kept turning around and looking at me. I wondered if he was waiting for me so he could take my bag."

LINUS GREGORIADIS

## THE EASTENDER



AFTER living in England for 37 years, Tony Boland was forced to return to his native Limerick by anti-Irish feelings that followed the 1996 Manchester bomb.

First his home was daubed with slogans such as "Irish scum" and "murdering bastards", and then his car was vandalised.

The 56-year-old widower, who worked as a housing caretaker in the inner-city Manchester district of Hulme, returned to Ireland last year to protect his son Kieran, aged eight.

He said: "The resentment really started after the bomb. The attitude towards Irish

people changed even when you just went shopping. I couldn't stand it any more. I was frightened for my son."

## THE IRISHMAN



Discrimination against Britain's million-strong Irish community has long been hidden by the fact that it is not a colour issue.

Researchers have found that most Irish people surveyed could identify instances of behaviour which they found insulting, hurtful or intimidating.

Old stereotypes remain. Depictions of an Irish family in the television soap opera *Brookside* – of having IRA links and of grazing horses in their garden – prompted Martin Brady, deputy leader of the Fianna Fail party in Ireland, to complain of "pure racism".

## THE ENGLISH EXILES

The *Braveheart* phenomenon, a Hollywood-inspired rise in Scottish nationalism, has been linked to a rise in anti-English prejudice. English couple Frank (right) and Sandra Walters took legal action following events which they claim drove them out of Scotland. They said that rubbish was dumped outside the door of their Galloway home and placards were put up saying: "English Out". The couple took action against a local pub after they received a legal letter saying they were barred. Last November, the Commission for Racial Equality

asked the Scottish Office to set up a register of racist incidents after a series of attacks on English children in playgrounds north of the border.

Reports linked a rise in attacks on English people to the success of *Braveheart*.

The CRE discovered that most calls to its new Scottish helpline were from English people.

But some Scots feel that discrimination also flows in the opposite direction.

Computer expert Murray Ingram, a Scot living in Exeter,

unsuccessfully claimed racial discrimination by his employer BT after being told his accent sounded "harsh and aggressive" on the telephone.

IAN BURRELL

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white'

## Scott's London wetland is reality

**THERE** have long been city parks and, in recent years, city farms have sprung up. Now a new phenomenon is nearing completion: a city wetland.

A 105-acre watery wilderness is being created in west London that includes a marsh, a large red bed, a series of lakes and an extensive network of ponds.

This is The Wetland Centre, Barnes, the £16m dream - now being realised - of Sir Peter Scott, the late naturalist, painter and founder of the World Wildlife Fund (now called the World Wide Fund for Nature).

Birds that normally steer well clear of cities, such as reed warblers and little ringed plovers, have already bred plentifully at the new centre; wild ducks and geese flock there by the hundred; a third of Britain's dragonfly species can be seen.

Sir Peter, whose wildfowl sanctuary at Slimbridge on the Severn became world-renowned, believed that a similar reserve could be set up in London, where it could serve as a powerful tool for environmental education.

Shortly before his death in 1989, he found the ideal site: a group of four Victorian reservoirs in west London owned by Thames Water but made redundant by a new large-scale water carrier: the Thames ring main.

He painted his impression of what they might become in his final painting (uncompleted on his death and unfinished by the artist Keith Shackleton).

A decade later, the transformation into what is believed to be the world's first real wetland in a capital city is nearly complete - thanks to an unusual three-way partnership between the water company, a housing developer and an organisation Sir Peter founded, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT).

Thames Water sold almost a fifth of the 125-acre site for housing to Berkeley Homes, which provided the £11m cost of breaking up the four huge concrete and clay boxes that were the reservoirs and turned

## Macho bosses 'not leaders'

THE WRITING is on the wall for the "macho manager". According to research published today, managers who consult their staff are the most highly regarded.

The study, produced by the Industrial Society to mark the start of its Leadership Week, shows that leaders are most admired for their "people skills", ethical beliefs and ability to deal with breaches of standards of behaviour.

The study, *Liberating Leadership 1999*, coincides with the hunt for a replacement for Glenn Hoddle as England football coach, with some experts saying that instead of appointing one top name, England should copy the French national side which is masterminded by a small group of people.

It appears to support the view that the qualities needed for successful management may not necessarily all be found in one person and that a manager who is prepared to delegate and take on the suggestions of colleagues is likely to be most successful.

The study also comes as the number of vacancies for chief executive at big companies sug-

gests there are serious problems in Britain's boardrooms.

Employees put less emphasis than would be expected on "strong" leadership. Instead, the top five skills identified by the report are: dealing effectively with breaches to standards of behaviour; not taking personal credit for other people's work; listening to staff; working on their own learning; and being honest and truthful.

Tony Morgan, the Industrial Society's chief executive, said the research showed that it was "a combination of integrity and honesty plus the ability to set standards and take decisive action that marks out the truly successful leader". He added: "Leaders ... cannot escape the need to adapt to this new 'firm but fair' style of leadership. Not if they want to remain at the top."

This view is lent support by research from accountants Arthur Andersen, also published today, which indicates that differences in leadership style are behind the contrasts in the performance of growing British companies.

BY MICHAEL McCARTHY  
Environment Correspondent

ing them into a series of wetland habitats with controllable water levels, to the WWT's design. The fitting-out of buildings will cost another £5m, of which £2m has already been raised.

The Wetland Centre will open in a year's time, but it is already clear that it will be a nature reserve to equal some of the most exciting in Britain, such as Slimbridge itself or the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' reserve at Minsmere in Suffolk.

The plate-glass windows of the visitor centre, 25 feet high and 100 feet long, look directly on to a large shallow lake which last week was crowded with flocks of teal, Britain's smallest duck. On the leeward side of a small island, a dozen herons hunched in shelter from the wind. Many wintering ducks, such as pochard and shoveler, are currently occupying the lakes: in January, 50 species of birds were recorded.

Out on the reserve, two main hides overlook a mosaic of habitats designed to bring in as great a variety of birds and other wildlife as possible. One of the hides is three storeys tall and is believed to be the only one in the world with a lift, which is to be used for disabled access. Closed-circuit television will be installed throughout the site.

The WWT is expecting 350,000 visitors a year to The Wetland Centre, and one of its prime purposes will be education: a series of exhibits will inform people about river life of the Thames and about wetlands around the world.

"Sir Peter thought the future of wetlands lay in education," said Kevin Pebery, 35, the project manager. "He thought a major part of conservation lay in the education of people and he wanted to attract people to a nature reserve who wouldn't normally go. So rather than creating reserves in isolated places where the birds were, he thought we should go where the people were, and bring the birds to them."

The Wetland Centre in Barnes, west London, begins to take on the appearance envisaged by its founder Sir Peter Scott (right) in his final painting (top left) John Voos



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# 12 Jobs for middle-aged men vanishing

ONE IN fifteen men between the ages of 45 and 49 who stop work in the UK will never be employed again, according to new research. And their chances of getting back to work are diminishing with every successive generation of middle-aged men.

The dramatic findings about the disappearance of work for middle-aged and older males imply that since 1979 about 800,000 men over the age of 50 have vanished from the work-

BY DIANE COYLE  
Economics Editor

force. And two-fifths of men between 55 and 65 no longer work.

They are either low earners who lose their jobs, or high earners given early retirement as a form of redundancy.

The report, published today by the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion at the London School of Economics, finds that the trend has been

Each successive generation of men is more disadvantaged, and economic recovery has not halted the trend.

It concludes: "Not only are older men today less likely to be employed than their fathers, but there is also a real possibility that employment levels among their sons will be even lower when they reach middle age."

Professor John Hills, director of the centre, said: "Working lives of 30 years are no longer uncommon." The problem with this was that company pensions devised when a 40-year career was the norm were unlikely to be adequate for an extra decade of retirement.

Professor Hills added: "It makes it harder to have a pension system that is both adequate and affordable - and it makes it more difficult for individuals to achieve sufficient pension provision for themselves."

longer uncommon." The problem with this was that company pensions devised when a 40-year career was the norm were unlikely to be adequate for an extra decade of retirement.

The decision to quit the workforce early is not usually voluntary, the report concludes.

It says: "The cost to employers of salary-related pensions increases, often substantially, as people near retirement age, providing incentives to employers to encourage their employees to retire early."

A man in his late forties or early fifties on above average pay is 50 per cent more likely to leave the workforce if he has an occupational pension.

Employers want to escape the cost of making their remaining pension contributions, while employees might not realise how inadequate their existing pension is likely to prove, the report says.

The people least likely to lose their jobs are those with above average wages but no occupational pension scheme.

Older men who have been made redundant are unlikely to

return to work unless they can find a new job straight away. The longer they spend away from employment the less likely it is they will return to work.

The report also shows that a fall in male employment is accompanied by an decrease in economic activity among the age group as older men decide to retire rather than spend time looking for new jobs or claiming unemployment benefit.

The other category of older men likely to have dropped out consists of those with very low wages, often in declining industries.

In addition, the pattern of demand for employees in the economy has shifted away from older men in favour of younger women, the report says.

Females in their thirties are much more likely to be in work than they used to be, it reveals.

A copy of the last message received from the Titanic

## Marconi archive to get special museum

BY KATE WATSON-SMITH

A UNIQUE collection of archive materials and equipment from the life and work of Guglielmo Marconi is to go on display for the first time.

The material, including messages transmitted during the sinking of the Titanic and the inventor's diary from 1901, when he recorded the first signal across the Atlantic, has only been seen by academics requesting special permission from GEC, the parent company of Marconi.

Two years ago, GEC sparked an outcry when it said it planned to sell the collection but after Princess Eletra Marconi-Giovannelli, the inventor's daughter, intervened, it called the sale. A charitable trust set up by the company will search for premises to display the archive in Chelmsford, Essex, home of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company, and it should be open next year.

The material dates back to 1896, when Marconi, unable to find support in his native Italy, arrived in Britain determined to make radio work. In 1901, he made a transmission from

to receive a message from the Titanic. It is timed at 12.27 New York time and would have been 2.27am on the Titanic. "The operator on the Virginia was writing down the message, which stopped halfway through the distress signal and he wrote: 'Signal getting very blurred then suddenly stopped as if the power had been turned off. That was the very moment that the Titanic went down.'

By the end of the First World War it was possible to reproduce speech and music by wireless and radio became a form of entertainment. In 1919, journalists travelling on a bus from Chelmsford to Colchester were entertained with "wirelessly transmitted music".

From these beginnings the BBC was born in 1922 and television followed in 1936, the year before Marconi's death. In a fitting tribute, the announcement of his death was made on the wireless.

The following day, radio transmissions around the world were silenced for two minutes as a reminder of what it had been like before Marconi.



Gordon Bussey, GEC's archivist, with equipment identical to that on which the Titanic's final distress call was sent

Neville Elder

## Send a Valentine message to your loved one and you could WIN a weekend for two at Grayslott Hall

In the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love, wrote Alfred, Lord Tennyson, and once again this year The Independent will be publishing your romantic, mysterious, funny and just plain daft messages to your loved one (and of course you don't have to be young or a man to indulge). In time for Valentine's Day we will send on your behalf an anonymous card telling the recipient to look for a higher personal message in The Independent on Sunday.

The sender of the best and most original message published will win a fabulous weekend for two at Grayslott Hall Health Fitness Retreat in Surrey - the former country home of Tennyson - and the runner-up will win a midweek two-night stay for two.

So just compose your message, follow the instructions below - and then you can start dreaming of two days unwinding with your loved one in beautiful, relaxing surroundings, revitalising your bodies with rejuvenating hydrotherapy, swimming together in the heated indoor pool, getting back into trim in the gym, enjoying natural therapies... and, of course, delicious and healthy food!



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## Unsung army of carers to get £50 pension bonus

BY COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

CARERS COULD get a pension bonus of up to £50 a week for giving up work to look after an elderly relative or a handicapped member of the family under plans to be unveiled today by ministers.

Tony Blair was to have presented the plans for rewarding voluntary helpers in the home, to underline the Government's commitment to do more for carers, but the Prime Minister will now be attending this afternoon's funeral of King Hussein. Before leaving for Jordan, Mr Blair paid tribute to the work of carers, "the unsung heroes" of British life.

The package of help for carers will include a proposal to reward people who have to give up work to look after a relative an extra pension of up to £50 a week when they receive their normal state pension.

The top-up would be a bonus "thank you" from the state for taking on the extra unpaid work during their earlier life.

The idea will be open to consultation, but it is likely to be warmly welcomed by carers groups. It is estimated that there are more than 3.5 million

carers in Britain looking after someone with a disability while millions of others look after an elderly relative; over 850,000 of them provide care for more than 50 hours a week.

Nearly 60 per cent of carers do not get visits from the providers of support services. Many carers do their work day in, day out without seeking help or rewards.

To try to get a more accurate picture of how many carers are devoting time to their voluntary help for other people, a question will be put on the next census, in 2001, to include information about carers. A new grant could be introduced to help carers take a break from their daily routine of caring at home. There may also be council-tax reductions for disabled people and their carers when their houses are adapted for disability.

The Government is also looking at ways of extending the New Deal to help carers return to work after caring for an elderly relative or handicapped person. There will be a Whitehall-wide strategy to adopt more "carer-friendly" policies among employers, and the Whitehall ministries will be expected to show a lead.

Local authorities, health and other services will be told by the Government to take carers into account. A commitment to do more was given by Mr Blair when he invited a group of carers to Downing Street soon after he took office.

That was followed up in June when he appointed Paul Boateng, then a Social Security minister, to oversee the policy. Mr Boateng was moved to the Home Office but has kept responsibility for the policy.

## Cook puts Asian summit in doubt by shunning Burmese

BY FRAN ABRAMS  
Westminster Correspondent

Bangkok between European Commissioners and leaders of Asean, the South East Asian economic community, was cancelled because Burma was due to be present.

Derek Fatchett, the Foreign Office minister, is expected to reinforce Britain's strong line on the issue in a written parliamentary answer today to the Liberal Democrat MP for Somerton and Frome, David Heath.

A Foreign Office spokesman said that while it would be widely criticised for appalling human rights abuses, and there is a European visa ban on its senior officials and ministers.

In January, a meeting in

Burma for the meeting to go ahead, Britain's stand could mean its cancellation. Mr Cook is supported by other nations including Denmark and other Scandinavian countries, but France is believed to support a stronger line.

The other Asean member states, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Laos, insist that Burma must attend.

Burma was admitted to Asean in 1997 amid claims that its human rights record would improve through links with other countries. Last month, however, more than 250 activists were jailed for between seven and 52 years for supporting Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy.



Robin Cook: Determined to take a strong line

less genuine concessions were made on human rights.

Because there must be unanimity on the presence of

lishing

THE INDEPENDENT  
Monday 8 February 1999

HOME NEWS/9

# Deadlock threatens transfer of powers

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday urged David Trimble and Gerry Adams to agree some sort of compromise in a bid to end the paramilitary disarmament deadlock which is threatening the future of the Northern Ireland peace process.

With the republican leadership resisting Ulster Unionist pressure to begin getting rid of their weapons and explosives, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mo Mowlam, admitted the 10 March deadline may not be met for the start of the transfer of legislative powers from London to Belfast.

All sides are due back at Stormont on Monday 15 February for a critical debate aimed at endorsing the creation of 10 ministerial departments as part of the devolved administration, and a number of cross-border bodies. But without any move by the Provisionals on decommissioning, Mr Trimble, the First Minister and leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, will oppose the setting up of a ruling executive which would include two Sinn Fein representatives.

Tensions between rival pro- and anti-agreement republican factions, sectarian bombings by dissident loyalists and the increasing number of paramilitary punishment beatings has heightened the pressure on London and Dublin to try and find a breakthrough.

Dr Mowlam insisted yesterday that the peace process was not unravelling, but admitted it was at a difficult stage which needed everyone to keep their nerve and for unionists and republicans to reach a compromise on guns.

Under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement, decommissioning was not a precondition but an obligation. Senior republicans however have ruled out any chance of IRA disarmament at this stage and with Mr Trimble warned by

BY COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

his own party that this is the one major issue on which he cannot, and must not give way, the peace process is edging into a critical phase.

The Prime Minister is desperate to negotiate a resolution ahead of another loyalist marching season, the forthcoming European elections and the publication of a report by an independent commission headed by the former Governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten on the future of the RUC and long-term policing arrangements.

Dr Mowlam, who is expected to have a new round of talks with all the parties, accepted the timetable for change in Northern Ireland may fall behind.

She said: "We missed the Good Friday Agreement by a couple of days. We may well miss this. I'm aiming for it. The people are aiming for it, but nothing is written in stone."

Meanwhile as another two victims of punishment beatings recovered yesterday, Dr Mowlam said the attacks would not halt the early releases of jailed paramilitaries.

An 18-year-old girl needed treatment for cuts and bruises to her arms, legs and head when she was attacked with a baseball bat by armed men who broke into a house in a loyalist area of Belfast. Earlier a 50-year-old man was beaten with a baseball bat and sticks when masked men forced their way into a house in Newabbey, another loyalist area.

Dr Mowlam told BBC's Breakfast With Frost programme yesterday: "Many of the beatings, not all, are carried out by people who are not on ceasefire and who don't want to see the process work. Stopping prisoner releases would achieve very little ... it would create the exact opposite and undermine the Agreement."

NATASHA WALTER



Suburban people aren't meant to have real character

IN THE MONDAY REVIEW PAGE 5



A hectic lifestyle and not always sticking to a sensible diet could make you more susceptible to nasty cold viruses. New Zinc-Defence's advanced formula helps support your immune system's resistance to infection.



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## Beaten chimp may stay at sanctuary

BY JANE HUGHES



Trudy playing at the Monkey World sanctuary in Dorset

AN AGREEMENT over the future of Trudy, the baby chimp beaten and abused by the circus trainer Mary Chipperfield, could be reached within the next two weeks.

A spokesperson for Trudy's owners, Mary Chipperfield Promotions, said last night that the company had decided it was in the chimpanzee's best interests to allow her to stay at Monkey World, the Dorset sanctuary where she has been recovering for the past nine months.

Mary Chipperfield was convicted of 12 charges of cruelty against Trudy after a video made by the Animal Defenders charity showed her kicking the chimp and keeping her in a box at her farm in Andover, Hampshire, for up to 14 hours a day.

A court ruled that Trudy could be returned to the farm at a later date because her owners, Mary Chipperfield Promotions, had not been implicated in the investigation. Trudy's future was due to be decided when Chipperfield is sentenced on 9 April.



Sir David Attenborough: Fears for other chimps

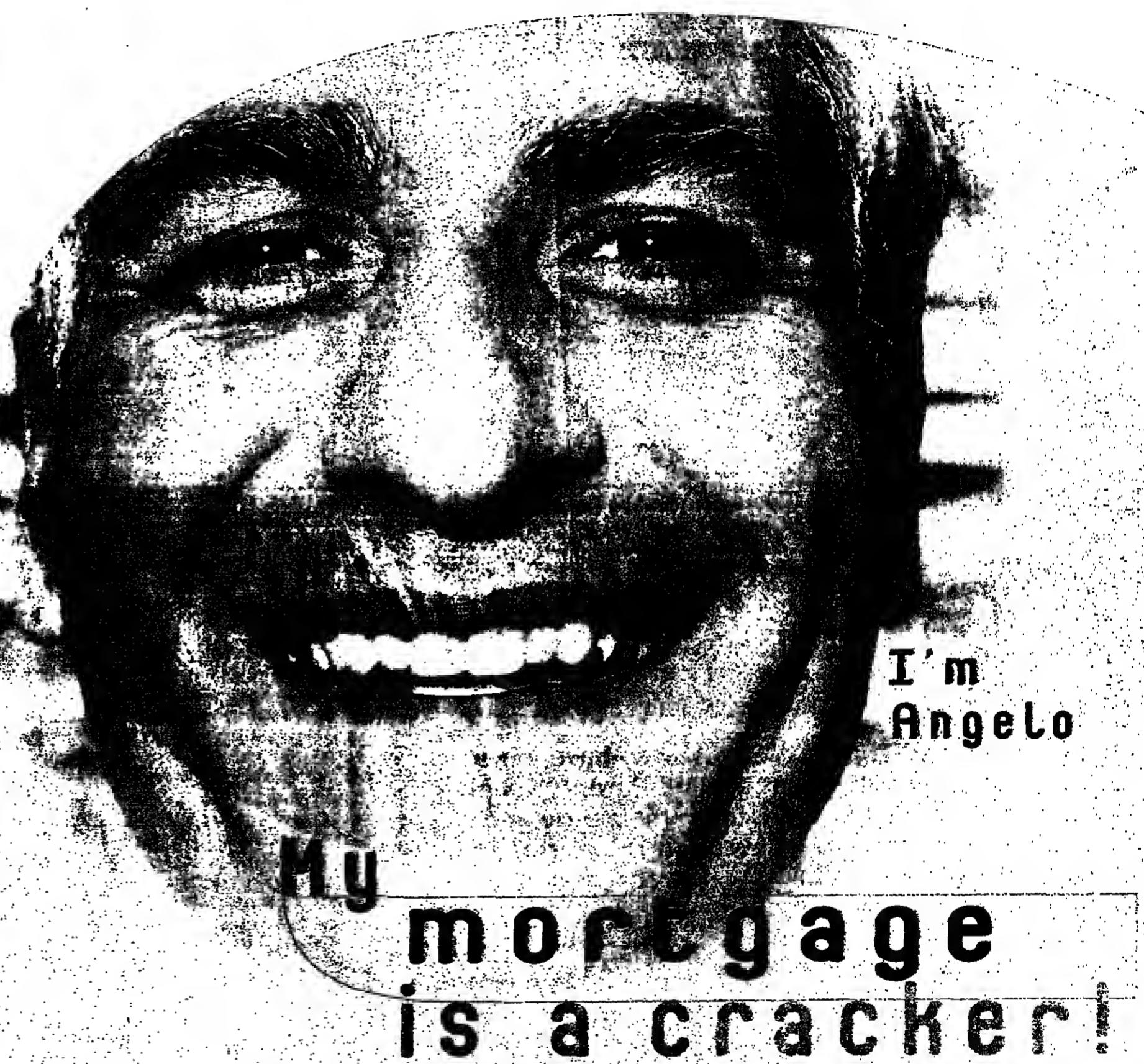
As Sir David Attenborough and other high-profile experts added their voices to the campaign for Trudy to stay at Monkey World, Mary Chipperfield Promotions appeared to be bowing to public pressure. "It is hoped that when the court case is completed on 9 April Trudy will be able to stay at Monkey World", a spokesman said.

However, last night the signs were that behind-the-scenes manoeuvring could see

cure a deal on Trudy's future as early as this week.

Sir David and the chimp authority Jane Goodall were among experts who gathered to assess Trudy's condition this weekend. They echoed the concern expressed by Jim and Alison Cronin, the founders of Monkey World, about four chimpanzees still thought to be at the farm where Trudy was abused and called for tough legislation over inspection and licensing for private owners of wild animals. Sir David said any law that could mean Trudy returning to "the unspeakable conditions" that she had previously suffered was "inhumane" and "intolerable".

Mr Cronin greeted the announcement from Mary Chipperfield Promotions with caution, saying he had yet to receive confirmation on Trudy's future. He said he would be meeting Michael Meacher, the Environment minister, to put forward the view of the public who had shown their support by donating around £25,000 to the Trudy Defence Fund.



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# Exposed: worst polluters in Britain

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY  
Environment Correspondent

MORE THAN 12,000 tons of cancer-causing chemicals were discharged by Britain's most heavily polluting factories in 1996, the last year for which figures are available, according to the environmental pressure group Friends of the Earth.

Today the group publishes a league table of the firms it says are the worst offenders, claiming that one plant – Associated Octel at Ellesmere Port, Merseyside, which produces lead additives for motor fuel – was alone responsible for emitting over 5,000 tons of carcinogens, nearly half the total.

The nearby ICI plant at Runcorn, which produces chlorine and related chemicals, was the second worst emitter of carcinogens, with over 2,000 tons, the group says. Glaxo Wellcome's drugs plant at Ulverston in Cumbria was the third worst, with over 800 tons.

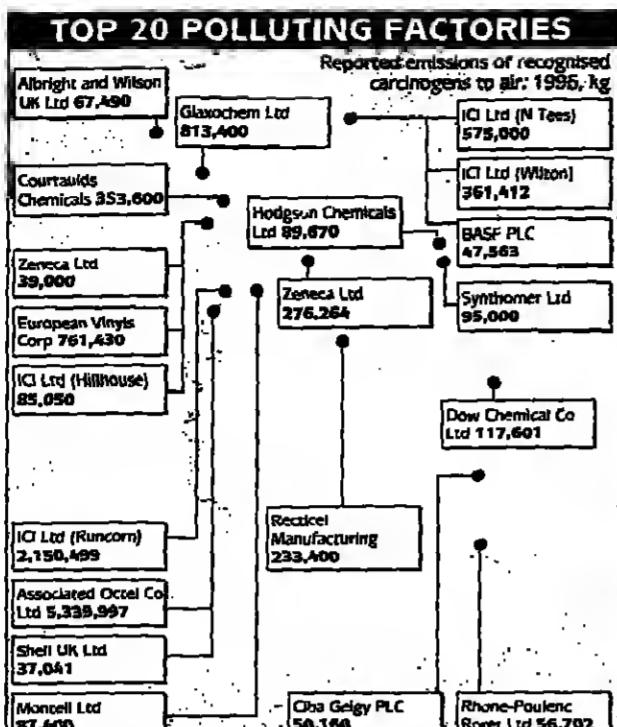
In each case, the group refers to the international scientific literature to categorise the discharged chemicals concerned as carcinogenic.

All three companies yesterday disputed the allegations, which emerge from a remarkable attempt by FoE to draw up, using government figures, the first comprehensive and fully detailed guide to chemical discharges from British industrial plants. Entitled *Factory Watch*, the report is a Domesday Book of Britain's factory pollution, though it is a web site rather than a parchment volume.

It gives full particulars of all the declared chemical emissions from all the 1,387 large factories in England and Wales which are regulated by the Environment Agency. There is no information for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

It also gives a summary, available as an instant cross-reference, of the known health effects of all the 440 chemical substances and groups of substances involved, which include threats to people's respiratory and hormonal systems as well as the threat of cancer.

And it also lists the plants by postcode – so anyone can find



out which factories in their own neighbourhood are emitting potentially dangerous chemicals, what the health effects are thought to be, and exactly how much, according to the Government's own figures.

The figures for the amounts of substances released are not disputed by the companies – they are the figures they have themselves reported to the Environment Agency. But they disagree that some of the chemicals are carcinogenic.

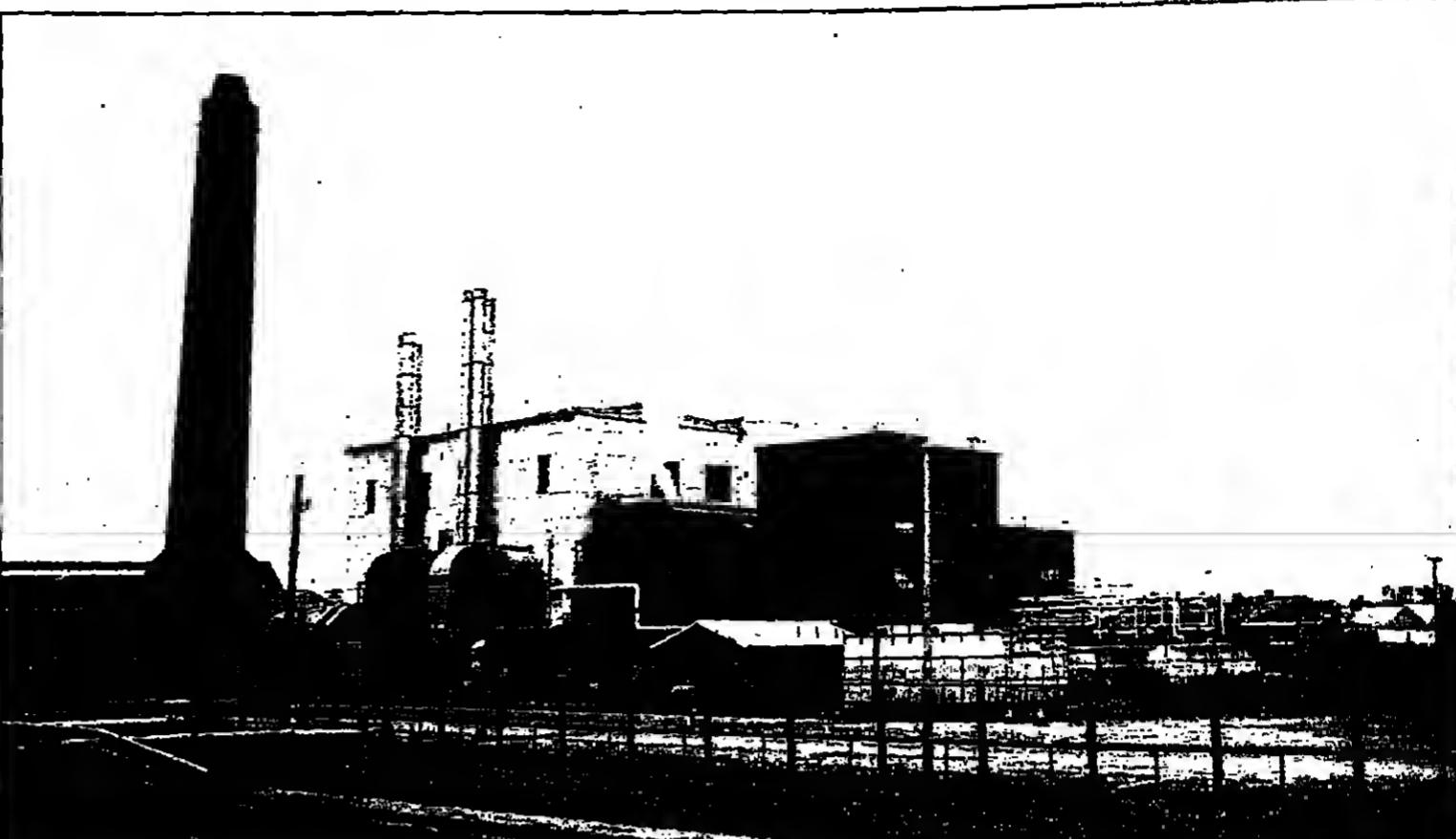
Associated Octel accepts that in 1996 its plant at Ellesmere Port emitted to the air 66 tons of lead, 5,218 tons of chloroethane and 8 tons of vinyl bromide.

But it said at the weekend: "According to the World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer, the carcinogenic status of these substances is as follows: lead and chloroethane – no adequate evidence of a carcinogenic effect in humans; vinyl bromide – limited evidence of a carcinogenic effect in humans."

These classifications, from a global authority on cancer, reveal the inaccurate nature of the claims.

However, Friends of the Earth quotes the US Environmental Protection Agency's assessments of lead and chloroethane. On lead, the EPA says: "Human studies are inconclusive regarding lead exposure and cancer while animal studies have seen an increase in kidney cancer from lead exposure by the oral route.

## 5,000-TON FALLOUT PUTS FACTORY IN A LEAGUE OF ITS OWN



This is the Associated Octel plant at Ellesmere Port, Merseyside, which tops Friends of the Earth's list of polluting factories in Britain.

It is a factory manufacturing tetraethyl lead, the petrol additive that is now being phased out in Europe because of health risks, but still in use in many countries, especially in the developing world.

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half the total of potentially cancer-causing chemicals discharged by large British factories. The group says that, according to the Chemical Releases Inventory maintained by the Environment Agency, the factory emitted a "terrifying" 5,339 tons of recognised carcinogens.

These consisted of 5,218 tons of chloroethane; 66 tons of lead compounds; 51 tons of lead; 8 tons of vinyl bromide; and 1.2 tons of 1,2-dibromoethane.

EPA has classified lead as a probable human carcinogen. On chloroethane, the EPA says: "There are no human cancer data available for chloroethane, but animal studies have shown it to be carcinogenic."

Mr Childs said: "For many of these chemicals, the work to see whether they cause cancer in humans, has not been carried out. The easiest way to test this would be to experiment on humans, which is, of course, completely out of the question. Therefore we have to rely on data that does exist, often data on animal tests. Where a chemical has been shown to cause cancer in animals, then the prudent thing to do is to treat it as though it could cause cancer in humans."

The company said yesterday: "The claim is false. The company's emissions standards are subject to rigorous supervision by the Environment Agency. All the processes on site are covered by licences issued by the Environment Agency and the company operates in compliance with those licences."

The company claimed the World Health Organisation had found little evidence to prove that lead vinyl bromide and chloroethane were carcinogenic in humans.

The company added: "Friends of the Earth should have made it clear that the concentrations of the substances emitted are so low as to present no health hazard either to the workforce or the local population, based on standards set by the Health and Safety Commission."

Technical improvements and other changes will mean that emissions in 1999 will fall to a level of less than half their 1996 levels, the company said.

by 29 per cent in 1997 "and further reductions are expected in the near future". The agency said improvements were in hand at the ICI Runcorn plant, which were expected to bring "substantial improvements".

The FoE web site address is [www.foe.co.uk/factorywatch](http://www.foe.co.uk/factorywatch)

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## Schroder setback in first poll test

GERHARD SCHRODER's honeymoon with German voters came to a sudden end yesterday as his Social Democrats seemed set for an unexpected defeat in the first regional elections since September's change of government in Bonn.

Voters in Hesse, a large, prosperous state in central Germany, flocked to the Christian Democrats, who had been out of the regional government since 1991. According to early projections, the Christian Democrats were heading for some 43 per cent of the vote, while the Social Democrats were scoring just below 40 per cent.

Upon the final outcome hangs the national government's ability to push new laws through parliament. Early last night it looked as though the Christian Democrats might be able to form the regional government with the help of the Free Democrats. Such a result would rob Mr Schröder of his majority in the upper federal chamber, the Bundesrat, producing the sort of legislative impasse that paralysed Helmut Kohl's administration in its final years.

Although Social Democrat leaders sought to present the débâcle as a little local difficulty, there is little doubt Hesse's 4.3 million voters were expressing a verdict on the coalition in Bonn. The current regional government of Hans Eichel, a veteran Social Democrat, is popular.

Like Mr Schröder's administration, the outgoing government of Hesse consisted of Social Democrats and Greens. The region has a strong Green party that grew out of the Sixties revolt and subsequent anti-nuclear protests. It was in Hesse that Germany's Greens first entered office, in 1985.

By IMRE KARACS  
in Bonn

when a Frankfurt activist named Joschka Fischer took the oath as environment minister, wearing a sports jacket and trainers.

Many Greens disapprove of Mr Fischer's performance as Foreign Minister in Bonn, blaming him for caving in to Mr Schröder's Social Democrats over the pace of nuclear-plant closures.

The Greens' share of the vote fell back from 11 per cent in elections four years ago to less than 7 per cent yesterday.

The most important issue, though, had nothing to do with the performance of Greens, local or otherwise. Two-thirds of those polled said they were opposed to the new nationality law the Bonn government was proposing to ease the integration of foreigners.

Breaking with their middle-of-the-road traditions, the Christian Democrats took their protest against the new law into the streets. Their petition, launched in Hesse, needed more than half a million signatures in recent weeks.

As conservative politicians campaigned with slogans such as "We don't want Chinatowns in Germany", voters were invited to sign up to an essentially xenophobic plebiscite. The CDU's allies, the Free Democrats, had expressed their disgust at the petition and nearly lost their seats in the regional assembly as a result.

Despite the outcry, right-wing Christian Democrats felt vindicated. "If this result stays, we shall use our new majority in the Bundesrat to scupper the Social Democrats' plans," Angela Merkel, the CDU's secretary, said last night.

With the diggity-doo and ceremonial done, the United States chief mediator, Christopher Hill, received some encouraging early signals as Serbs and ethnic Albanians yesterday started their pressure-cooker negotiations for a peace settlement in Kosovo in earnest.

To talk of a full-scale "conference" is premature. The contacts between the two profoundly hostile delegations, inside a former royal chateau at Rambouillet near Paris sealed from the world by hundreds of French security police, are following the "proximity talks" format, whereby the protagonists gather in separate rooms and Mr

BY RUPERT CORNWELL  
in Rambouillet

Hill shuttles between them conveying their views.

But for all the bitterness born of a savage year-long war which has taken 2,000 lives, the two sides have accepted the 10 principles on which the six-nation

settlement

proposed agreement will run.

The 13 Serb/Yugoslav negotiators and 17 Kosovo Albanians have until Saturday to reach

broad agreement on the plan drawn up by Mr Hill. If all goes well, they will be allowed a second week to wrap up the details. The target completion date is 21 February, after which up to 30,000 Nato troops, 8,000 of them British, will be deployed to keep the peace.

The outward mood at least

seems to have changed since Saturday when the formal opening of proceedings by the French President, Jacques Chirac, was delayed three hours because of the refusal of the Serb authorities to allow five representatives of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) to even leave Pristina for Paris.

Now, however, all participants are not only present but have also managed something unprecedented: a joint declaration "condemning in the strongest terms" the bombing

which killed three people in the province's capital on Saturday evening, presumably in an at-

tempt to derail the Rambouillet talks. Never before have Serbs and ethnic Albanians managed to find such a common voice.

The Hill plan, of which a final draft was being examined by the two sides yesterday, is "80 per cent non-negotiable," according to US officials. But the outstanding points at issue are crucial. They include the exact

status

of a more autonomous Kosovo, what say - if any - Belgrade will retain over its affairs, and the scope of the Nato peacekeeping operation.

The package calls for a drastic reduction in Yugoslav security troops in Kosovo from the current 10,000, and the dis-

banding of the KLA with three months. Within nine months, and under strict international supervision, elections will be held for a new Kosovo assembly. However, vast power will be vested in the head of the international monitoring force, meaning that like Bosnia, Kosovo will become a Western protectorate in all but name.

Thousands marched yesterday behind a cortege of tractors carrying the bodies of nine village men slain last month in a police raid on the village of Racak. In all, 25 ethnic Albanians and one Serb policeman marched behind the coffins.

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Thousands marched yesterday behind a corte

# 12 Battle rages in Horn of Africa

BY ALEXANDER LAST  
in Asmara

ETHIOPIA and Eritrea, ignoring calls for restraint, were battling yesterday for control of their disputed border in a second day of clashes. Eritrea said its larger southern neighbour had launched an offensive in the heavily militarised border area of Badme and was deploying helicopter gunships to back up ground forces.

Eritrea said it was attacked first but had beaten back an assault on its military post in Badme and was strengthening its position. It also said Eritrea had started shelling on another front farther east.

In New York, the United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, called on the two Horn of Africa nations to stop open fighting and find a peaceful solution. "The alternative, com-  
monly accepted, is completely unacceptable to the international community," he said.

The UN, the United States and the Organisation of African Unity have tried but failed to resolve the conflict despite car shuttle diplomacy between Asmara and Addis Ababa in recent weeks.

Both sides blame the other

Britain and Germany to

the eruption of clashes on Saturday but also claim to have gained the upper hand.

Eritrean officials said hundreds of Ethiopian soldiers were killed and 100 taken prisoner as two brigades were put out of action and two others were heavily battered. But an Ethiopian spokeswoman said its forces captured Geza Gerlase, "a strategic Eritrean military post that commands control of Badme plain".

Badme is a rocky triangle of land at the western end of the border and was occupied by Eritrea during a war between the two countries last May and June.

Hundreds of soldiers and dozens of civilians were killed after fighting broke out along three fronts. The two sides agreed to a moratorium on cross-border air raids in June but have since reinforced their positions along the 625-mile border and all efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement have failed.

King Leka of Albania with Queen Susan, their son Prince Leka and dogs



King Leka of Albania with Queen Susan, their son Prince Leka and dogs

AP Wirephoto

Both sides blame the other

the eruption of clashes on Saturday but also claim to have gained the upper hand.

Ethiopia's state-owned airline announced that it was moving its operational headquarters from Addis Ababa to neighbouring Kenya as a precaution against Eritrean bombing raids.

The man who in January 1941 led the French cavalry's last charge on horseback has died, aged 85. Lt-Col Jean Ballarin

was a non-commissioned officer in a Spahis (French North African Arab light cavalry) unit fighting alongside British forces in Eritrea when he led the charge, sabre drawn, against Italian troops at Umberga. It went down as the last flourish of a romantic though bloody tradition.

Ballarin later participated in the capture of Hitler's Bavarian mountain retreat in 1945 and was awarded the Cross of the

Liberation, given to the most

deserving members of the

French Resistance.

King Leka of Albania with Queen Susan, their son Prince Leka and dogs

AP Wirephoto

# Exiled king arrested as police seize arms cache

BY ALAN DUVAL SMITH  
in Cape Town

closer links," with the country, the spokesman said.

He added that South Africa, after consultations with the Albanian government, terminated Mr Zogu's privileges last Thursday. "This was something the present government inherited from the previous one and is in conflict with our present relationship with the government of Albania."

Mr Zogu, known by Albanian monarchists as King Leka I, was arrested on Friday along with three employees.

Police said an arsenal of weapons, including more than 70 firearms, was removed from the 59-year-old's home in Fourways, a northern suburb. It contained AK47s, 22 sniper rifles, grenade launchers, a rocket launcher, more than 80 grenades and anti-personnel mines.

A Johannesburg police spokesman said a section of the house, where Mr Zogu has lived since being granted diplomatic privileges in South Africa in 1991, was "like an armoury". He refused to speculate as to why the pretender was allegedly storing so much weaponry, including 14,000 rounds of ammunition.

Mr Zogu and the three men arrested with him will appear at Randburg magistrates' court today on charges related to being in possession of firearms, explosives, automatic firearms and ammunition without licences or permits.

A South African foreign affairs spokesman said that after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Mr Zogu was granted certain diplomatic privileges, protecting his archives and possessions but he did not have full diplomatic immunity. "At the time, there was an opinion that the Albanian monarchy might return and the previous [apartheid] government wished to establish

Mr Zogu boasts that in 1993 he entered his fatherland on a passport issued by the "Kingdom of Albania". He travelled there again in 1997 to campaign, wearing military fatigues, for the return of the monarchy. But he lost a referendum on the issue and has lived ever since in Fourways with his Australian wife, known as Queen Susan.

Mr Zogu, whose profession is listed as "commodity broker", wants an "ethnic Albania" and the restoration of his father's 1928 constitution. He has promised to return to the country once the 2 million Albanians in Kosovo gain autonomy within Yugoslavia.

Last June in Tirana, Mr

Zogu was found guilty in

absentia of staging an armed

rebellion in which one man

died. The killing happened at a

demonstration after the July

1997 referendum.

## Sierra Leone rebels implicate Britain

BY PAUL LASHMAR

SIERRA LEONE rebels said troops from a Royal Navy ship had been deployed on a military mission in the capital, Freetown. A Revolutionary United Front spokesman said personnel from HMS Norfolk disembarked last week to an unknown destination in Freetown.

The Ministry of Defence denied it, saying Britain's presence in the region was "entirely

humanitarian". Britain sent the Norfolk to its former colony in what it called a precautionary move after rebels invaded Freetown on 6 January. A Nigerian-led West African force has largely retaken control of Freetown but is still grappling with rebel infiltrators on the fringes of the city.

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# Japan turns a blind eye to tiger-bone tonic



Potions made from endangered animal species are much prized in the Far East. *SIPA*

FROM THE outside, a chilly street in one of the older parts of Tokyo, there is nothing remarkable about the premises of Mr Shinano, the apothecary. Below it, on the ground floor is a shoe shop; opposite, a row of cheap restaurants. But mount the narrow stairs, step through the frosted glass door, and you find yourself in a different world, a world in which Macbeth's witches would not feel out of place.

By the door hangs a paper chart bearing ink-drawn images of men and women, their aches and pains indicated in red - this belongs to Mrs Shinano who works as an acupuncturist alongside her husband. On a broad table, leaves, grasses and shards of bark in various colours are in the process of being ground up and labelled.

But it is to the contents of the thick glass jars that the eye is drawn - a long, yellow bone, disturbingly human-looking, and three dark, shrivelled tubers floating in fluid.

They come from across the sea; between them they must be worth several thousands of pounds. They are the femur and penis of the Chinese tiger, and it is men like friendly, red-faced Mr Shinano who have brought it to its present plight, with as few as 20 animals surviving in the wild.

Traditional Chinese medicine is a thriving business in Japan and within five minutes' walk of Mr Shinano's shop can be seen a zoo of dismembered, pickled or desiccated breeds used in the concoction of its pills, salves and tonics. A nearby shop displays deer penis, monkey hand, bear's gall bladder and bees preserved in sake.

In pharmacies in other parts of Tokyo are found rhino horn, monkey head, narwhal tusks, whale foetus and the penises of seals, whales and sea lions. But for the traditional apothecary, it is the tiger - its bones and genitals, and the pills and tinctures derived from them - which is prized above

all, and for which customers will pay the highest prices.

The bones are regarded as a potent remedy for rheumatism, the penis as a natural aphrodisiac ("It's just Viagra") proclaims the sign in the window of another shop. A week's supply of 100 tiger bone pills costs 3,000 yen (220), tiger bone sake is 750 a bottle.

But the tiger, as everyone knows, is a gravely endangered species. Since 1980, Japan has been party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) which bans the international trade in tiger parts.

How can the apothecaries of Tokyo get away with such open flouting of international rules? "It's OK to kill tigers for use in these pills," explains Mr Shinano - but it is certainly not.

In June 1997, the Cites conference adopted a resolution

urging signatories "to adopt comprehensive legislation and enforcement controls as a matter of urgency, with the aim of eliminating trade in tiger parts and derivatives, in order demonstrably to reduce the illegal trade".

The Japanese government excuses itself from this responsibility with a legal loophole. Japanese law fails to ban the trade in tiger parts which are not "readily recognisable". And no restriction exists on tiger products designated "pre-Convention" - in other words killed and imported into Japan before 1980.

In other words - unless they have whiskers, stripes and big teeth - it is legal to buy, sell and possess tiger bits in Japan.

Existing stocks, the government insists, are "pre-Convention", but the only guarantee of this is a voluntary system administered by the traditional medicine industry itself.

Remarkably, Japan's own trade statistics show the vigorous trade in tiger parts:

between 1990 and 1992, according to official statistics gathered by the London-based Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), 70 tons of tiger-based products were imported into Japan.

"The treaty is undermined and threatened by the failure of the Japanese government," the EIA concluded in a report last year. "Every day ill-equipped forest guards risk their lives against the poachers. Final responsibility for the gun battles ... rests with the consumers."

None of which impresses Mr Shinano. "Whether China is killing them or not is not our problem," he says. "It's the Chinese government's problem, it's for them to deal with." And the Cites treaty, he points out, has made one big difference.

"Three or four years ago, you see, we used to call these 'Tiger Bone Pills', he says. "But now we've changed the name to 'Muscle Pills'. The contents are exactly the same."

RICHARD LLOYD-PARRY

## China sets out vision of tunnel link to Taiwan

THE COUNTRY that brought you the Great Wall of China and the Three Gorges Dam has designs on another mammoth construction project. Professor Wu Zhiming of Qinghua University in Peking, believes there is a "good possibility" that in 30 years time there will be a rail tunnel linking the mainland with Taiwan.

Forget for a moment that China has still not lifted its threat to use force should Taiwan press for independence, or that Taipei still bans almost all direct transport, mail and telephone links with the mainland, because Professor Wu is a man with a vision. He has selected four possible routes for the proposed tunnel, the shortest of which, from Pingtan Island off the southeast China coast to Xizhu in Taiwan's north, would be 144km (90 miles) long, with an estimated cost of 1.440bn yuan (£108bn).

"Building a tunnel under the Taiwan Strait has been my dream since the idea occurred to me when travelling through the Channel Tunnel at the beginning of 1994," Professor Wu told yesterday's official China Business Weekly.

The paper said that Professor Wu's "bold conception has found favour with scholars in the last three years". To encourage research, Qinghua

BY TERESA POOLE  
in Peking

China's premier science and technology university, has set up a Taiwan Strait Tunnel Demonstration Centre with Professor Wu as the director.

Apart from the huge political and financial assumptions involved in arguing for such a venture, there are the technical considerations.

Professor Wu admitted that any tunnel would have to be built on a stable stratum "avoiding seismic belts and fault zones". He said it would take 16 years of research and feasibility studies and a further 16 years of construction.

The past 50 years has seen a political stand-off between the mainland and Taiwan, which Peking persists in viewing as a renegade province.

Professor Wu does not explain how the assumed political breakthrough will occur, or whether Taiwan will be reunified with the motherland, but forecasts that by 2030, annual passenger traffic across the Taiwan Strait will reach 261 million while freight will be 517 million tons.

Professor Wu, 58, has never visited Taiwan, but said he hoped to journey to the island through the proposed tunnel in 2030 - when he will be nearly 90.

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## BUSINESS

## BRIEFING

## CBI president comes under fire

FOUR out of five small business owners want Sir Clive Thompson, president of the CBI (left), to resign, according to a private ballot run by the Forum of Private Business. The forum said 78 per cent of its members wanted Sir Clive to go because of the attitude of his company, Rentokil, towards the Late Pay Act. Rentokil said suppliers would be paid interest of 1 per cent over the Midland Bank base rate for bills unpaid after 65 days, rather than the 8 per cent allowed by the Late Pay Act. Rentokil revised its position, but the forum is calling for a DTT inquiry to decide whether Rentokil is in breach of the Act.

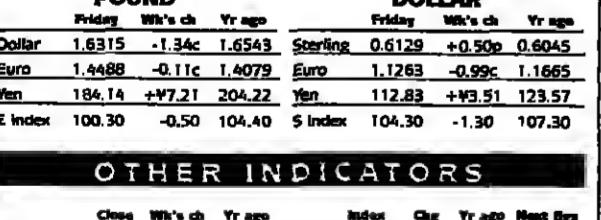
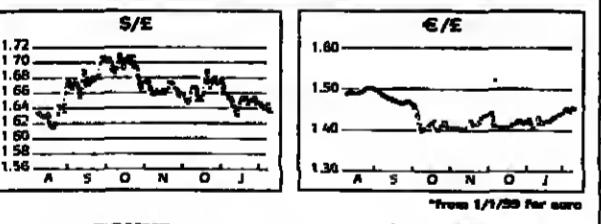
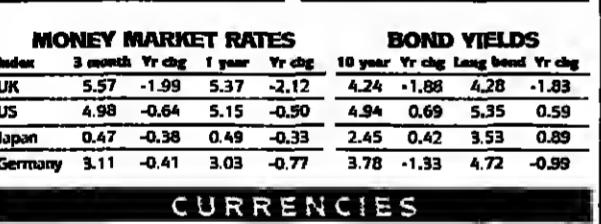
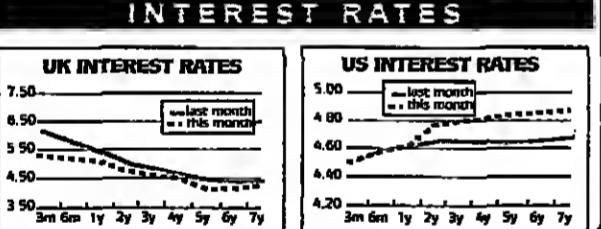
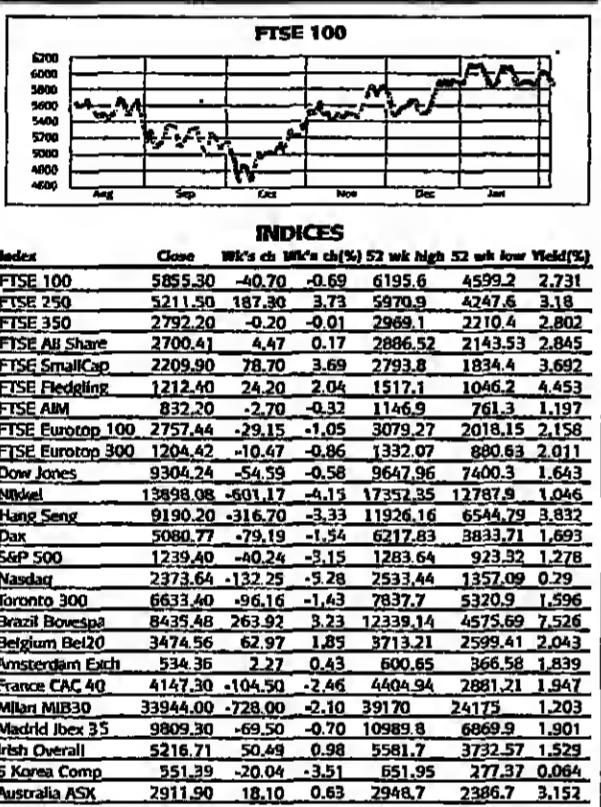
## EMI plays down Murdoch 'offer'

EMI said yesterday it had received "no contact" from Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation regarding the possibility of a £4.5bn takeover bid. EMI was responding to newspaper reports at the weekend which suggested that Mr Murdoch is planning an offer for EMI at around 520p per share. EMI played down suggestions that Mr Murdoch was reputed to have met EMI representatives aboard a yacht at the music industry's annual conference in Cannes last month. Mr Murdoch has admitted interest in EMI in the recent past but has said prices are too high.

## US engineer seeks break-up fee

FEDERAL-MOGUL, the US engineer, has asked the Takeover Panel for permission to include a break-up fee of around £30m in any new bid for LucasVarity, the car parts and aerospace group. Federal Mogul will decide in the next few days whether to increase its initial £3.6bn offer and trump a £4bn agreed takeover of Lucas by its US rival TRW. The deal between Lucas and TRW includes a £30m break-up fee which was approved by the Takeover Panel.

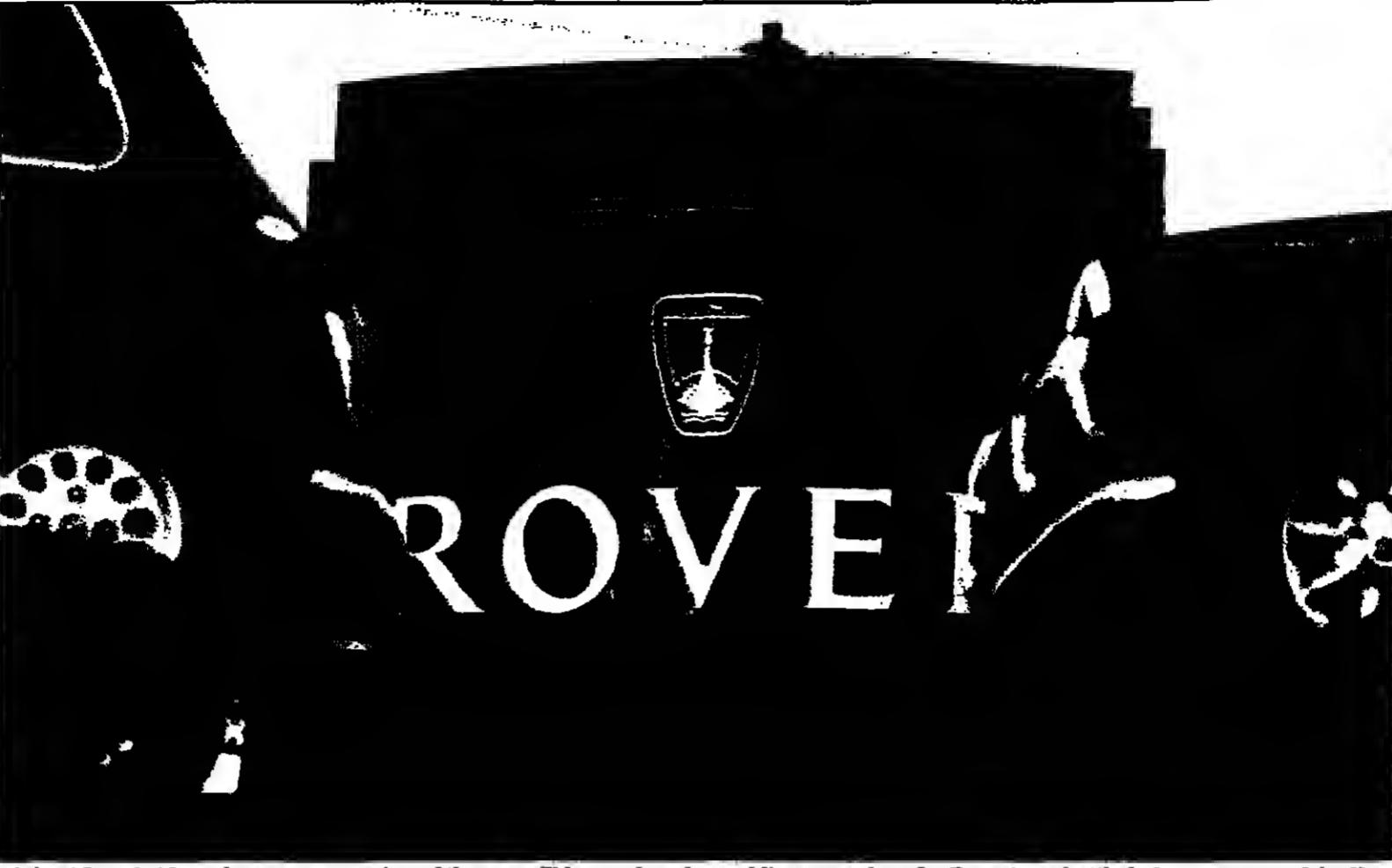
## STOCK MARKETS



Rates for indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

## Mini wins breathing space for Longbridge



Minis at Longbridge where a new version of the car will be produced, providing a reprieve for Rover's embattled plant

By NIGEL COPE  
Associate City Editor

THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE of Rover's Longbridge plant looks to have been secured after the troubled car group confirmed that the new Mini will be built at the West Midlands site. Rover, whose parent company BMW unveiled the resignation of two top directors late on Friday, is investing £400m in the new Mini and the commitment to its production at Longbridge will give the plant a reprieve of at least three years.

"The new Mini will be built at Longbridge and the 200-400 series will also be upgraded at the plant," a spokesman said.

Further good news emerged

that he had been assured that BMW "is looking closely" at Longbridge as a possible location for a new medium-sized car.

Trade unions took heart from the news but warned that the troubled factory's future was far from secure.

Stephen Byers spoke by telephone to top managers at BMW about the future of Rover after Friday's shock resignation of BMW chairman Bernd Pischetsrieder.

Mr Byers wanted to tell new BMW chief Joachim Milberg of the importance Britain attaches to Rover and its huge factory at Longbridge which employs 14,000 workers.

Mr Byers' office said yester-

day that BMW "is looking closely" at Longbridge as a possible location for a new medium-sized car.

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The new board of BMW is due to start meetings in Munich today to discuss the new cars

programme and then the locations at which the various models will be built.

Charles Moss, of consultancy JD Power LMC International, said BMW was likely to choose Longbridge over alternative locations such as Hungary only if there was a hefty subsidy.

It will depend how deep the British government is prepared to dig into its pockets.

"If they [BMW] commit to build a new medium car for Rover then I suspect they will be looking to the British government to compensate to enhance at Longbridge - and I

John Voss

think the British government will."

The political manoeuvring will take place in the shadow of increasing bid speculation, as the resignations of Mr Pischetsrieder and Wolfgang Reitzle have made BMW vulnerable to a takeover. Analysts say this could come from Ford, General Motors, Volkswagen and Fiat.

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will take place in the shadow of

# Bull market creates global imbalances

IT IS NOW taken as axiomatic by many economic commentators that share prices are vastly overvalued, especially in the US, and that this will lead to a major market and economic crash in the next year or two. Without question, this is the most important and difficult topic in the world economy today, so it deserves careful evaluation.

The price of equities today is equal to the sum total of future profits, discounted back to the present by a suitable interest rate. A rise in equity prices might therefore signal one of several things – that expected future profits have risen in real terms; that the appropriate real interest rate used for the discounting process has fallen; or that expected future inflation has risen relative to the discount rate, for example.

If either of the first two events are occurring, then it is perfectly appropriate for asset prices today to rise relative to consumer prices, and there is no case for monetary policy to seek to offset this. On the other hand, if the third factor is at work, the increase in equity prices is signalling that expected future inflation has risen, in which case



GAVYN  
DAVIES

*The risk of mishap would be significantly reduced if Europe would ease monetary and fiscal policy*

monetary policy should be tightened today, even if the present-day CPI is well behaved. The rise in equity prices would then be rapidly reversed.

Which of these three factors is in fact dominant in present circumstances? According to many pessimists, the third factor is dominant, in which case the equity bull market has been a bubble. If this view is right, then the bubble

should be burst forthwith by the central banks. However, this is not the conclusion reached by Goldman Sachs' equity strategists. According to their calculations, the entire rise in global equity prices in the past five years has been driven by a burst of double-digit inflation, and it seems to have taken about two decades to remove the impact of these events from the memory of bond investors. With the world standing on the brink of deflation, it is not surprising that bond investors now deem negative surprises on future inflation as being just as likely as positive surprises, so the "insurance premium" previously built into bond prices has now disappeared. In a sense, on this argument, the recent rise in share prices is the mirror image of the prolonged bear market which occurred in the 1970s when the inflation risk premium first appeared in the bond market.

Naturally, it follows from all this that any reversal in the recent declining trend in inflation would probably cause serious problems for equities, since real and nominal bond yields, and the equity risk premium, could all rise simultaneously in such circumstances. At that point, the legion of equity pessimists, who have been so vocal

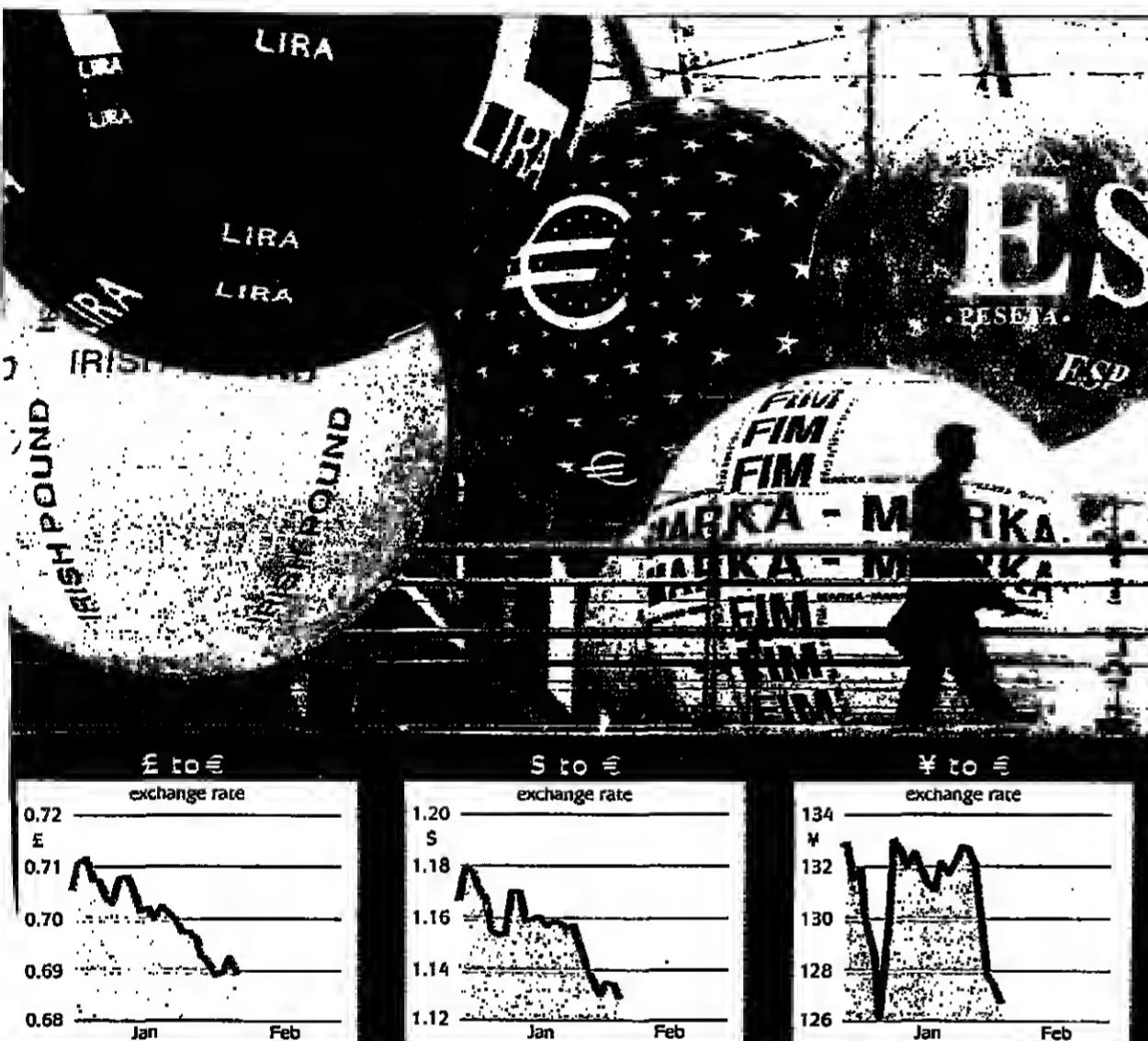
ever since 1995, would undoubtedly (if belatedly) be proved right. However, a significant up-tick in underlying inflation does not appear to be a particularly likely eventuality in 1999, so that source of trouble for equities does not seem a major risk for this year.

Unfortunately, though, there are other sources of risk to the equity bull market which also need to be analysed. The principal one of these is the financial imbalance at the heart of the US economy. The five-year equity bull market has clearly been the prime force in reducing the American savings ratio to approximately zero in recent months. With net household savings at close to zero, US households have been operating for some time with negative cash flow (ie with a large private sector financial deficit). Essentially, US households have been borrowing money from foreigners, both to sustain their spending at a level about 4 per cent of GDP higher than their income, and to buy more equities.

This is a highly unusual situation, and one fraught with danger since, if the private-sector deficit is corrected suddenly, this could import a contractionary shock on the world economy several times larger than the impact of the Asian and Latin American shocks combined. Even if the current valuation of the equity market is somewhere close to "equilibrium" (given where real bond yields are standing), it is hard to describe such a large private sector deficit as an equilibrium phenomenon. It seems that, as real bond yields have fallen, the very rapid rise in equities towards their new higher "equilibrium" has temporarily boosted consumer spending via a cut in the savings ratio.

US now stabilise, and equities remain fairly valued relative to bonds, the rate of return on equities in future should fall to the rate which is sustainable in the long term – ie around 7.5 per cent per annum. As consumers come to recognise that equity returns are falling back to normal, they might restore their savings ratio into positive territory, in which case the private sector deficit could correspondingly be gradually eliminated.

While such an out-turn is certainly possible, it will require several things to go right – inflation will need to remain under control, the US balance of payments deficit will need to be successfully financed for a lengthy period, and the US private sector will need to maintain confidence in equity valuations even while they were coming to realise that recent rates of return on equities could not be maintained. On balance, all of these things may continue to occur, in 1999 at least. But the risk of mishap would be significantly reduced if Europe would ease monetary and fiscal policy, allowing the US Federal Reserve to tighten policy if need be without pushing the world into recession.



## Why the golden euro has lost its lustre

### News Analysis: The new European currency is falling far short of expectations – so what went wrong?

economic performance, to quote Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve.

On snap up the new Euro currency, with sterling, and even the mighty US dollar on the sidelines.

"Euro-euphoria" gathered as the launch of the currency approached, I asked a rash of headlines that the pound would "be bed" the moment the euro began.

Reality has been somewhat different. The euro has rather than strived – for global stage, and has fallen in value against that's major currencies since the beginning of the year in mid of last week, the fitter down close to 4 per cent.

Against the dollar, around 4 per cent against the pound are 1 cent against the euro. What has gone

against the performance of the pound is easy – "Mo" it is simply a question of positive growth rates.

United States economy – which is amaze with its

recently enjoying the

time expansion comp. grew by an annual

5.8 per cent in the

decade of 1998, well

satisfactory. It has

exceeded a "sparkling" cool.

appreciated against all major currencies, including the dollar, despite the extremely weak economic fundamentals in Japan.

Where do we go from here? Analysts emphasise that the structural factors which favour a strong euro have not gone away, they have simply been overridden by short-term cyclical considerations.

Given the sheer size of the European currencies, the euro seems bound to rival the dollar as one of the world's major reserve currencies, although this may take far longer than some initially thought.

"I think we're looking at a five-year horizon or even a five-to-ten-year horizon," said Ms Foley at Barclays Capital.

Mr Lewis of Deutsche Bank pointed out that countries with high savings rates and healthy current accounts tend also to have strong currencies. These types of fundamentals suggest that the euro will eventually gain against the dollar, as the US struggles to come to terms with negative savings rates and enormous current account deficits.

It is still early days for the euro. Its performance to date may have been nothing to write home about, but fundamentals suggest that, over the medium term, it will strengthen against the world's major currencies.

And a weak currency is not necessarily bad news for the euro-zone right now. Indeed, it may be just the tonic that some of its stagnating economies need.

The relationship between the euro and the pound is more of a puzzle. City dealers say that they want to buy dollars rather than euros because they expect US interest rates to fall. The same dealers also believe that UK rates are more likely to fall than European rates. So logic would seem to imply that the markets should favour euros over pounds. But the euro continues to slip

## Energy Group takes price blame

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

EST for that day of the week since the pool began in 1990 and the fourth highest on record for any day. Mr McCarthy, who has said that the price spiking is unfair to customers, has threatened to amend the generators' licences unless they stop "gaming" in the pool for their own commercial advantage.

Last month the energy regulator, Calum McCarthy, accused the three big coal-fired generators – National Power, PowerGen and Energy Group – of rigging the market to maximise prices and their own profits. The day after he made his comments, the system margin price – the amount that all bidders into the pool receive for their electricity – was the highest

also show that in 34 per cent of cases over the past 10 months, high system marginal prices have been set by a tiny generating plant in Brigg, South Humberside, run by the Finnish company IVO. Both Energy Group and IVO had bid fairly into the pool in line with the pool rules. But critics of the system say IVO's disproportionate influence on prices shows why the pool needs urgent reform.

## IN BRIEF

### Axon set for £100m float

AXON, an information technology consultancy, yesterday said it planned to seek a listing on stock exchange in a placing expected to value the company at £100m. Axon, which recorded profits of £2.5m last year, sells IT solutions to users of SAP R/3, a leading business software system. The flotation is to take place in March.

### Internet fortune for auction founder

APAX, the venture capital group, yesterday announced the largest European venture capital investment in the Internet to date, ploughing \$12m (£7.3m) into QXL, the on-line auction service run by former *Independent* journalist Tim Jackson. Apax is taking a 30 per cent stake.

### Engineer opens bid attack

TT, the engineering group, yesterday launched an attack on the management of Hall Engineering as part of a £51.8m hostile bid. In an offer document sent to shareholders today, TT highlighted an expected halving of Hall's profits in the second half of 1998. The company said its 97p-a-share offer represented a 38 per cent premium on Hall's share price before the bid became public on 4 January.

### £50m radio prize for Hunting

HUNTING, the business services group, has won a £50m-a-year contract to supply power management for the British army's new battlefield BOWMAN radios, which are set to enter service in 2002.

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£500,000 - £999,999	5.83	4.66	5.68
£1,000,000+	5.90	4.72	5.75

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# SPORT

Arsenal striker faces England on Wednesday close to general acceptance as world champions' spearhead after just four caps

## Anelka excels as ultimate predator



**RICHARD WILLIAMS**

IT'S SAID that he didn't even watch the World Cup final. He was at home, 30 miles from the Stade de France, but he didn't bother to switch on the television. A month earlier he'd been one of six players told to pack their bags when the squad was cut from 23 to 22. So while his former team-mates were entering history, he took a ball out into the streets where he'd grown up and had a kick-around with his mates. At 19, Nicolas Anelka is already one of a kind.

Nowadays, cool is a word that means the same in English and French. *C'est cool*, the way Anelka takes his goals without a flourish and celebrates with a smile. To adults, it seems unnatural. To kids, it's the only way.

"Ah oui, Anelka," sighed André Mérille, who coached him between the ages of the 13 and 16 at Clairefontaine, the French national football institute. "Well, he's some sort of a

'He's got a very high esteem of himself, which is good when you're a forward. He's going to be outstanding'

rebel. Not a bad boy. But during the three years he was here I never had the impression he was listening to me. I don't know. Maybe he was listening. But he was never giving this impression. He seems to be saying, 'I'm doing what I like, and thinking what I like.' It's difficult to persuade him to have a relationship."

There's plenty of evidence to support the view that Anelka isn't interested in ingratiating himself. He didn't bother to hide his disappointment with Aimé Jacquet last summer; just as he had failed to see the justice in criticisms made by Gérard Houllier when the present Liverpool manager was in charge of the French Under-20 squad at the 1997 World Championships. Even Nike, where brashness is a marketable commodity, irritated him to the extent that he refused to renew his contract. And only since he scored in last season's FA Cup final – a goal full of pace, power and perception – have Arsenal's fans begun to recognise his quality.

Yet his future as one of the stars of world football seems beyond doubt. Houllier, who once told me that Anelka was the most talented young player in his position that he had ever seen, recently added a prediction that "if his mental attitude is right, one day he'll win the Ballon d'Or, definitely."

Carlo Ancelotti, who takes



Nicolas has no doubts. He thinks, "I'm the best. Overmars? Bergkamp? Not a problem. I'm as good." It's his strength. No emotion'

Empics

over as the coach of Juventus next season, has been overheard describing him as "the Van Basten of the new millennium", according to the current edition of *FourFourTwo* magazine. After a mere four international caps, and a solitary goal, he arrives at Wembley on Wednesday night close to general acceptance as the new spearhead of the world champions' attack.

But yesterday the young centre-forward found himself, not for the first time, making headlines on the back page of a British tabloid for something he had said to a French newspaper. Last autumn he had spoken of being bored with his life in Britain. Now, on the day after his goal had helped Arsenal to a 4-0 win at Upton Park, it was a remark about one of his team-mates, the Dutch winger Marc Overmars.

"It's the absolute truth that Overmars plays exclusively for his own benefit." Anelka told

*L'Equipe*, "and that he never gives a scoring pass. Why shouldn't I say that? There's no reason why I should shut up about having to run like a bird after the misses that he aims out to the wings, where I'm left with no choice but to put them back into the centre so that he can take advantage of them to shine all by himself, which was his aim all along."

Whatever criticism his comments attract, Anelka won't mind. Or at least he won't allow himself to be seen to mind, which may be more important.

"He's got a very high esteem of himself," Houllier said, "which is good when you're a forward. He's going to be outstanding. He's very quick with the ball, which is different from being quick without the ball. He prefers to have the ball and to be facing the goal, then he can dribble and score. As soon as he starts running for goal, it's very difficult for a defender to catch him without committing

a foul. He has two good feet. And now he realises that he has to work more. Maybe he had a mental problem before. Now he closes down, he defends, he runs off the ball."

At Highbury, the fans still grumble that he misses chances. "He's young," Mérille said. "And he's not just a goalscorer, or like Jean-Pierre Papin, who I coached here and who was only interested in scoring goals. But Nicolas has more to offer." He thinks, "I'm the best. Overmars? Bergkamp? Not a problem. I'm as good as Bergkamp." I think it's his strength. No emotion."

HIS PARENTS are from Martinique, but he was born in Trappes, the sort of multi-racial suburb that gave rise to the harsh neo-hiphop culture depicted in Mathieu Kassovitz's celebrated film *La Haine* ("Hate") a couple of years ago.

Plain de Nauville, the sector of Trappes where he grew up, is

a town planner's dream of the way ordinary working people ought to live. Tree-lined avenues and grassy knolls divide clusters of colour-coded apartment blocks optimistically named after great cultural figures: Daudier, Gauguin, Courbet, Cocteau, Stendhal, Camus. Between two of these clusters is where Anelka grew up, in a variation of the dream – the Square Van Gogh, a little Warren of terraced streets intended to recreate a vision of rural France, full of sand-washed houses with steeply pitched pantiled roofs and wooden shutters. In pursuit of the ideal, his street was ludicrously christened the Rue du Moulin de la Galette, the street of the flour mill.

It's not Compton or the South Bronx, but it certainly isn't the fulfilment of its own dream. When working people aren't working, they stop conforming to the desired social pattern. The ethnic mix in

Trappes reflects French imperial history, from the Maghreb to Indo-China. The cassette stall at the open-air market sells only zink and rai. In the daytime it's curiously quiet. Outside the bleak apartment blocks and terraces there are no signs of individual self-expression.

"It's a very difficult place," said Claude Rondeau, sitting beneath posters of Youri Djorkaeff and Zinedine Zidane – stars of France's rainbow nation team – in his office in Trappes' genfamericie. "A ghetto, a lot of kids, a lot of unemployment, a certain amount of drugs, a lot of angry people, a lot of small crime. The kids get together at night. Sometimes they set fire to a car."

Not surprisingly, Rondeau lives 10 miles away, in a town where he is the general manager of the football club. But he seems proud of the fact that Anelka played his first games for FC Trappes, and that he

chooses to return frequently.

"Nicolas's parents are good people," André Mérille said.

"His mother is a secretary at a lycée, and his father works in the post office. But in these suburbs the boys spend their time in groups, and they feel very rejected by society. There is no

respect by society. They hate police, they hate authority, they attack

buses because the drivers are wearing a uniform. Nicolas was not on the worst side, not a bad boy. But the education in these suburbs had an impact."

During his years at Clairefontaine he showed little aptitude for school work. "Not interested," Mérille said. "A bit arrogant. There's a special way of speaking, a certain tone of voice. It says, 'No, I don't want to get in contact with you.'

A sociologist might be too

surprised to learn that Anelka's

primary loyalty is to his suburb.

"Coming back to Trappes is my

recreation," he said last year.

"In London, it's all just work

and sleep. In Trappes, it's real life. My friends are here. Like before. Some people may say I've changed, but I know it's not true. I never forget anything, above all my roots."

HE LIVES in Edgware now, in a house with his older brothers, Claude and Didier, who are aged 31 and 29 respectively. He has made it clear, quite reasonably, that English pub life doesn't appeal to him, but from a distance it seems an unnecessarily insulated existence. Arsène Wenger is reliably said to have misgivings about its effect on his starlet. The recent arrival at Highbury of David Grondin, another French teenager, may have been at least partly calculated to improve his social life, and the two travel to Arsenal's training sessions together in Anelka's Mercedes cabriolet.

He doesn't give interviews to English journalists, and is bright enough to understand the consequences. "In the end, this image has stuck to me because I've done nothing to remove it. Honestly, I don't care what other people think about me. I know who I am and what I'm worth."

Didier, who has business qualifications, handles Nicolas's commercial interests, and described to *L'Equipe* his pleasure in confronting David Dein, Arsenal's managing director, during a contract renegotiation before Christmas. "It was a long and difficult process," he said.

*'The world of professional sport is a jungle... It's time to stop talking about things like loyalty to a shirt'*

"but every time he [Dein] made an offer, he found him counter-offer, he found him facing the three Anelka brothers. We couldn't be broken down, and in the end it was he who gave in."

Their strategy is based on the objective of eventually signing a deal with one of Europe's top teams, by which they mean Barcelona, Real Madrid, Juventus, one of the Milanese clubs, or Parma. Ancelotti's words, and the recent arrival at Juventus of Thierry Henry, Anelka's best friend, may give the best clue yet to his eventual destination.

Arsenal's fans, who have only just begun to appreciate him, may find that difficult to swallow. But they should think hard about something Anelka said last week. "The world of professional sport is a jungle, and the higher you get, the worse it is. So it's time to stop talking about things like loyalty to a shirt. All of that, except for the national team, is over. The only thing that grabs me is to win, to collect medals, and to improve until I'm the best."

It's almost 40 years since Jean-Luc Godard described the youth of modern France as "the children of Marx and Coca-Cola". In Nicolas Anelka, who reconciles a chilling degree of commercial self-interest with an absolute contempt for the machinery of sport's rampaging free market, we may be glimpsing the finished article.

## Darkest recesses of Wembley laid bare

Wembley: The Greatest Stage  
Tom Watt and Kevin Palmer  
Simon and Schuster  
£20 hardback

IN PREPARATION for the 1948 Olympics, they dug up the old running track at Wembley and relaid it using 800 tons of ash from fireplaces in Leicester. "Why Leicester's cinders should be preferred remains an Olympic trade secret," says this history of the stadium's first 75 years.

Probably some hefty pay-offs involved. It is around the margins of the Wembley story that this account is at its strongest.

The most familiar Wembley images – the policeman on the white horse, the Matthews final, England's World Cup and Matt Busby's European Cup – have been dissected in detail elsewhere.

### BOOK OF THE WEEK

It is in exploring Wembley's darker recesses that it excels. Wembley has plenty of dark recesses. Although it is the big football set-piece that dominate the national memory bank as the bulldozers prepare to move in, it was greyhound racing and speedway that paid the bills.

The book also gives acknowledgement to the fact that, in most years of its existence, Wembley's second-biggest event has been the Rugby League Challenge Cup final. Not that its significance was appreciated. When Wakefield Trinity beat Wigan in 1946, their scrum-half, Herbert Goodfellow, earned £15. But he was docked £7.50 from his

wages as a miner and only avoided the sack for missing his shifts because his pit manager had been at Wembley.

Some of Wembley's most illustrious figures have played some less well-known roles at the stadium. Busby, just a few weeks after his first great Manchester United team had won the Cup final,

was honorary, unpaid team manager of the amateur Great Britain side in the 1948 Olympics. They lost in the semi-finals to a Yugoslav team markedly similar to the one that represented them in internationals.

Wembley has not always been kind to men who should have achieved the crowning

moments of their career there.

Those who never saw him play still refer routinely to the Matthews Final of 1953 – although Sir Stanley himself has always insisted that it should be known as the Mortensen Final – but 1954 should have been the more alternative Finney Final. In

stead, Tom, the Preston plumber, had what he regarded as the worst match of his life as North End lost 3-2 to West Bromwich Albion.

Football has debased the currency by playing the final of every tin-pot competition at a ground which has now largely sacrificed its air of mystery. With the old place now on borrowed time, anyone who has rubbed shoulders with it will have their own ideas of its most memorable year.

How about 1985? Within a few weeks, we had one of Wembley's most compelling contests when Wigan beat Hull 28-24. Kevin Moran became the first man sent off in an FA Cup final at the stadium and the bizarre event that was *Live Aid*. All human life was there.

DAVE HADFIELD

### THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN SPORTS BOOKS

- 1 Wisden Cricketers' Almanack Australia 1998. (Gardie Grant Books, hardback £19.99)
- 2 Rugby League 1998-99. Tim Butcher (League Express, paperback, £6.99)
- 3 Angry White Pyjamas. Robert Twigger (Indigo, paperback, £6.99)
- 4 From Save The Bridge To Wembley: A Decade Of Writing In The Chelsea Independent, edited by Mark Meehan (CASA, paperback, £11.99)
- 5 Football Grounds From The Air Then And Now. (Dial House, paperback, £12.99)
- 6 African Football Yearbook. Filippo Ricci (Ricci, paperback, £16.99)
- 7 Elliott's Golf Form 1998. Keith Elliott (Portway Press, paperback, £20)
- 8 Jonty Rhodes: Fruits Of The Spirit. Edward Griffith (CAB, hardback, £9.99)
- 9 When Pele Broke Our Hearts. Mario Risoli (Ashley Drake, paperback, £10)
- 10 Gentleman Jim Corbett. Patrick Myler (Robson Books, hardback, £17.95)

Compiled by Sportspages: 94-95 Charing Cross Road, London, 0171 240 9604 & St Ann's Square, Manchester, 0161 832 8330 and [www.sportspages.co.uk](http://www.sportspages.co.uk)

## France should hold England to a draw

ENGLAND CAN hold France, the World Cup winners, to a draw in their international at Wembley on Wednesday.

### SPORTS BETTING

BY IAN DAVIES

possession in midfield. Against all but the most moderate of opponents, the French strikers posed little goal threat.

France have not cut much ice so far in their subsequent European Nations Cup qualifying games and there is every reason to suppose that England's defence, although hardly the most solid on the planet, can nevertheless withstand the impotent Gaïac attack while simultaneously the likes of Alan Shearer and Andy Cole fail to trouble the outstanding French defence.

C	N	L	T
England	11-8	11-8	11-6
draw	7-5	7-5	7-5
France	15-8	15-8	15-6
Coral	11-8	11-8	11-6





# Kumble takes his place in history

By matching Jim Laker's feat, India's genius has made an indelible impression on Test cricket. By David Llewellyn

THE NICKNAME "Apple Crumble" conjures up an image of a slightly chaotic, disorganized person, a roly-poly figure of a man, a trifl on the party side. But it sits slapping on the shoulders of someone who could claim to be, if not the best leg spinner in the world, then almost certainly the next best.

And Kumble's historic performance in New Delhi yesterday, taking all 10 wickets for 74 runs in Pakistan's second in-

#### ANNALS OF ANIL

1970: Born Bangalore, on 17 Oct. 1990: Makes Test debut for India, against England at Old Trafford. 1991-92: An unbroken 154 for Karnataka against Kerala at Bajpur confirms his batting prowess.

1993-94: Takes 7-59 for India against Sri Lanka at Lucknow.

1995: Joins Northamptonshire and tops 10 wickets in the Championship, with an average of 20.40.

1996: Ever-present for India in the 1996 World Cup and is not out in Calcutta semi-final despite a collapse of seven wickets for 22 runs results in victory for Sri Lanka.

1999: Becomes only the second man to take 10 wickets in an innings against Pakistan at Delhi. Kumble's 10-74 is second only to Laker's 10-53.

nings was only the second time the feat has been achieved in Test cricket, the first being by England's Jim Laker (an off spinner) at Old Trafford, Manchester, in 1956. It should, however, be noted that his old reliable is the flipper, with the odd googly and leg spinner thrown in.

Kumble does not get much "rip" on the ball; it will not turn square as it does for Warne and Mushtaq, because Kumble is still more of a finger spinner, but the advantage he has is phenomenal accuracy. Few bowlers can drop the ball on the

surpassed his previous Test best, a more modest 11 for 128 against Sri Lanka in Lucknow in January 1994, the only other time he has ever taken 10 or more wickets in a Test. His best return in first-class cricket remains 16 for 92 (8 for 58 and 8 for 41) for Karnataka against Kerala in the 1994-95 Indian season.

But while his contemporaries are for the most part orthodox leggies, employing a varied armoury against unwary batsmen, Kumble is anything but orthodox. For a start he is a qualified engineer, who has spent his spare time mending watches and more recently, designing a computer game on cricket when he is not playing for his club.

Kumble is an upright man (in every sense of the word) standing as he does at 6ft 1in and being able, therefore, to deliver the ball from a good height, and, on hard wickets, to generate sometimes unplayable bounce.

He has a long delivery stride, possibly a hangover from his days as a medium pace bowler, and has a wickedly quick ball, once timed at around 60mph in a one-day international. And while the orthodox members of this select fraternity will employ the leg break as their stock ball, Kumble has always reckoned that his old reliable is the flipper, with the odd googly and leg spinner thrown in.

Kumble does not get much "rip" on the ball; it will not turn square as it does for Warne and Mushtaq, because Kumble is still more of a finger spinner, but the advantage he has is phenomenal accuracy. Few bowlers can drop the ball on the

same spot for four after hour as can Kumble. In that respect, he has much in common with Laker, and perhaps accuracy is the key to taking all 10.

Both bowlers certainly benefit from their team-mates. When Laker was on his way to all 10 (and 19 in the match) his bowling partner, Tony Lock, stifled an appeal from the other end because he sensed history in the making.

In New Delhi, India's captain, Mohammad Azharuddin, instructed pace bowler Javagal Srinath to bowl wide deliveries to ensure Kumble could equal the record and surpass the

previous Indian Test best of 9 for 69, set by another leg spinner, Jasu Patel, against Australia in 1959.

It was his Northamptonshire colleagues who dubbed Kumble "Apple" when he spent a fruitful year at Wanstead Road in the summer of 1995, standing in for the West Indies fast bowler Curly Ambrose. By the start of that season he had made 17 Test appearances, but was something of an unknown to cricket followers in this country.

His studious appearance belied a tough competitor who can bat. The spectacle-wearing Kumble was set an extremely

stiff challenge by Allan Lamb, the then captain at Northamptonshire - he was told he had to take 100 Championship wickets in the season. Lamb would not have done so had he not believed Kumble capable of the feat, and his perspicacity was rewarded when Kumble finished the summer 105 wickets at an impressively mean 20.40, having seen down more than 900 overs.

It was the first time a bowler had reached three figures since Essex's Neil Foster and Surrey fast bowler Wayne Younis had reached their hundred wickets in 1991. It left him ninth in the first-class bowling averages and

helped Northamptonshire to third in the table. He was also the first to pass 100 wickets for the county since another Indian, Bishen Bedi, in 1973.

Almandrik in February is at odds with Kumble's apparent love affair with October. He was born in October 1970, reached 100 Test wickets during his 21st Test in October 1995 and joined the more exclusive 200-wicket club in October 1998 while winning his 47th cap for the record. Warne reached this landmark in his 34th Test. In his 51 Test appearances to date Kumble has taken 234 wickets at a most respectable 27.28.

It is more than a decade since Warne first entered the Test arena and over that time he has become the world's leading Test batsman. As speculation about the captaincy has increased, doubt has been expressed about his communication skills and motivational powers. Warne has had success as a leader. He was made skipper of the national one-day side last year when the selectors had everybody is agreed each would bring different qualities.

It is more than a decade since Warne first entered the Test arena and over that time he has become the world's leading Test batsman. As specula-

# Waugh the best wager for captain

Shane Warne may be considered too big a gamble to lead Australia. By Stephen Brenkley in Melbourne

AN AUSTRALIAN government survey revealed last week that most of the population could not name the country's first Prime Minister. It could have been much worse. They might have been unaware of the identity of their first Test captain.

Not knowing Edmund Barton became head of the Federation in 1901 was cause for some momentary soul-searching. If it was ever discussed that mass ignorance existed of Dave Gregory's leadership in the inaugural 45-run win against England in 1877 it could bring a nation to its knees.

The name of the 40th man to hold the post will be announced this week. He will lead Australia on their tour of the West Indies next month. It is all but certain the anointed one will be either Steve Waugh or Shane Warne.

The personalities of the two candidates have been constantly dissected and reassembled. Between them they have been conducting extremely polite but deliberate election campaigns.

Waugh is the favourite as the older man and senior player but Warne has been doing himself favours with his captaincy of the one-day side in the Carlton & United triangular series. There is no unanimous opinion on who would be the better candidate but everybody is agreed each would bring different qualities.

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#### AP

Anil Kumble celebrates taking all 10 Pakistan wickets in the second innings in New Delhi yesterday

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1 Five Nations' Championship: France prevail in test of nerve while Wales are stunned by flying Scots at Murrayfield



The Irish forward Dion O'Cumiagain is inches from touching the ball down but is held up by Richard Dourthe, of France, at Lansdowne Road on Saturday

## A monkey becomes King Kong

They ended up black and blue, but the latest debacle against a victorious France was different. By Tim Glover

THE DYE was cast. Literally. Freshly painted advertisements on the playing surface left the players daubed in blue, French blue at that. Even the ball changed colour. All in all it looked like St Trinians on a bad ink day.

However, this latest debacle against the French was different. Warren Gatland has developed a most formidable pack of Ireland forwards who did not appear to miss the injured Malcolm O'Kelly in the second row or Andy Ward in the back row. The breakaway unit of Eric Miller, Victor Costello and Dion O'Cumiagain were positively dynamic against France, as was Keith Wood, but there are still obvious problems at half back.

As France move a step nearer a third successive Grand Slam (they might be entitled to feel they can survive anything after this) the statistics reflect Ireland's lack of a cutting edge. This was their 14th successive defeat to the Tricolores during which time the try ratio is: France 56, Ireland 7. The monkey on Ireland's back has grown into King Kong.

Long before Thomas Castaignede kicked the winning penalty in the 79th minute, Irish observers were fearing the worst and the worst, they believed, was inevitable. It has happened so often it is almost as if it is preordained. Heroic but futile, day afternoon or, as the French would have it, déja vu.

The closest Ireland, who lost in Paris last season by two points, came to a try was when O'Cumiagain, peeling on the short side of a 14-man line-out, was tackled into touch by Richard Dourthe a yard short of the line. Dourthe's claim for the man of the match award was strengthened when he scored the only try, courtesy of a Remi-Style drive from his pack, in the 57th minute.

However, apart from Dourthe's significant contribution, the French had little else to offer. As Toulouse, Stade Francais and Colomiers had been overawed by Ulster, France, for most of the match, fell under the spell of the Irish forwards. It would have been poetic justice had David Humphreys accepted the life-line thrown to him injury time.

"We played with huge enthusiasm and achieved plenty of clever moves," Jean Claude Skrela, the France coach, said. Had Gatland uttered those words it would have been more understandable.

"I told the players at half time, when we were 6-0 down, to keep the ball in their hands and believe in victory," Skrela added. "We kicked too much in the first half but when it mat-

tered I was satisfied with our defence. That performance will mature the side at the start of World Cup year."

By large the indiscipline for which France are infamous was kept in check. In the opinion of the Ireland selector Donal Lenihan, the same could not be said of the Irish. "We played some great rugby," he said. "Our defence was outstanding but our discipline let us down. The players were shattered at the late score but it isn't the end of the world."

Paddy Johns, the Ireland captain, said the performance "gives us huge belief that we can win the Triple Crown." How? For all their passion, power and physical presence, Ireland find it extremely difficult to score tries and they are not too clever in the goal kicking department.

The pluck of the Irish is not in doubt but luck? It is not true that fortune favours the brave.

### FIVE NATIONS TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	LP	APts
Scotland	1	1	0	0	33	20	2
France	1	1	0	0	10	9	2
Ireland	1	0	0	1	9	10	0
Wales	1	0	0	1	20	53	0
England	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

REMAINING FIXTURES: 6 Feb: Ireland v France (DUBLIN); Scotland v Wales (MURRAYFIELD); 13 Feb: England v Scotland (WEMBLEY); Wales v Ireland (WEMBLEY); 6 March: Ireland v England (DUBLIN); France v Wales (PARIS); 20 March: England v France (WEMBLEY); 21 March: Scotland v Ireland (MURRAYFIELD); 10 April: France v Scotland (PARIS); 11 April: Wales v England (WEMBLEY).

## Heartbreak for Humphreys

THE GREATEST legal minds in Christendom are divided on the issue: was it the law of the jungle that left Ireland's Grand Slam ambitions face down in the Dublin mud on Saturday, or the law of Murphy? Both judicial philosophies were very much in evidence at Lansdowne Road during the most gripping drama staged at the grand old stadium since the World Cup quarter-final with Australia eight years ago, but on balance, as the best judges like to say, Murphy gets the nod.

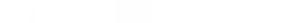
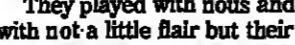
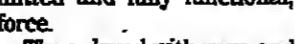
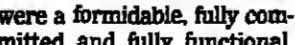
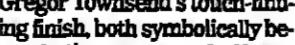
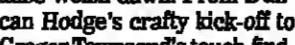
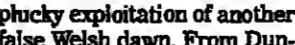
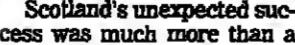
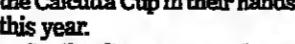
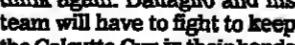
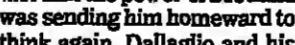
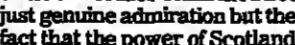
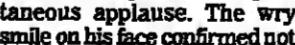
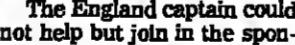
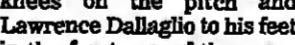
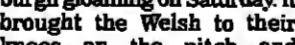
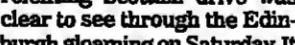
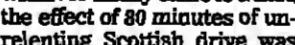
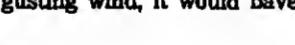
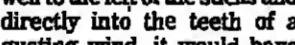
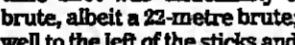
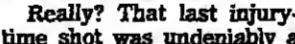
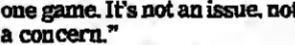
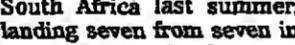
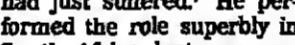
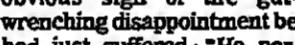
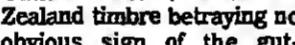
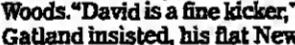
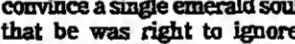
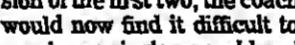
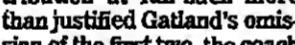
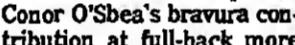
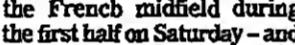
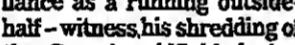
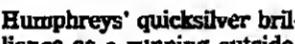
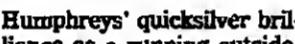
Certainly, David Humphreys now subscribes to the theory that if it can possibly go wrong, it will. Seven days previously, it had taken the loveable little Ulsterman a full 50 minutes to fight his way to the dressing-room after leading his province to a famous European Cup victory over Colomiers. This time, a random drugs test prevented him reaching the bar for the best part of three hours. Given that Humphreys did not much feel like socialising in the immediate aftermath of a numbing one-point defeat for which he held himself largely responsible, he would not have worried had he been taken three weeks to produce the required sample for the men in white coats.

By Chris Hewett at Lansdowne Road

Ireland	9	France	10
Penalties: Humphreys 3		Try: Dourthe	
		Conversion: Castaignede	
		Penalty: Castaignede	

Half-time: 6-0

Attendance: 49,000



# 'Total embarrassment' for Robinson

THE UNIMAGINABLE happened here yesterday. People were beginning to feel sorry for a club that had set the benchmark for English rugby.

Andy Robinson, the beleaguered Bath coach, was rendered almost speechless by the heaviest defeat in the club's history.

"That," Robinson said, "was a total embarrassment. I'm embarrassed to be the coach of Bath. We were totally out-muscled and out-thought. The hits were much harder from Wasps. We missed tackles and there

BY TIM GLOVER

Wasps 35  
Bath 0

was a lack of ability to keep the ball. We were lucky to get taught."

And then Robinson walked out of the press room. Clearly, he was too upset to take any questions, but there is a big one hanging over his future.

One of the reasons Bath were outplayed by Wasps is that they have no say in the Premiership - they have dropped

to seventh - and are out of the Cup, the two competitions they used to monopolise.

And, of course, a defence of the European Cup, which they won so gloriously last season, never materialised following the boycott of the English clubs. Perhaps that, more than anything else, has drained Bath's mental resources.

They have nothing to play for except their pride and there was precious little of that yesterday's performance.

Motivation, however, is one of the responsibilities of the

coach although the captain, Richard Webster, must also shoulder his fair share of the blame.

This was the first occasion in the Premiership in which Bath failed to score and Robinson's embarrassment was understandable.

Before their biggest crowd at Loftus Road this season, Wasps had two tries, three tries and two penalties.

"Bath are among equals now," Nigel Melville said, although there was nothing equal about it. Melville, in his first

league match since taking over the senior coaching duties from Rob Smith, added: "Things have moved on. We're not intimidated from a line-out and although he was cut down a yard short, Mark Weedon, the Wasps captain, picked up and went over."

Before going off with a cut above his left eye, Alex King scored 10 points with two penalties and two conversions. When Martyn Wood scored the first of two tries after Matt Perry had a kick charged down, Robinson had obviously seen enough.

The latter, like the team, seems to have lost the plot. Yesterday the full-back was comprehensively outplayed by Josh Lewsey, but there was a similar story in almost every posi-

tion, the Wasps on loan to Bath, Mike Tindall, Victor Ubogu and Mark Regan.

By that stage Bath were 25-0 down and out of their depth. What should be worrying, not just for Robinson but the England coach, Clive Woodward, is the form of Mike Catt, Jeremy Guscott and Perry.

The latter, like the team, was up for this. Bath were not. By half-time they trailed 17-0. Wasps did not score until the 18th minute when their No 8 Peter Scerener burst from a line-out to score through a suspect, alarmingly fragile defence.

There was a similar breach,

"We asked a lot of questions to which they didn't have any answers," Melville said. Indeed, in response, Bath and Robinson drew a blank.

Wasps: Tries Scerener 2, Wood 2, Webb, Conner, Parsons; King 2, Penfold 2.

Wasps: J Lewsey, S. Perry, P. Webber, M. Ubogu, M. Tindall, V. Ubogu, M. Wood, D. Molloy, T. Scerener, W. Green, M. Veecon (Captain), A. Reed, I. Dallaglio, P. Scerener, P. Voller, Replacement: G. Rees for King.

Wasps: J. Lewsey, S. Perry, P. Webber, M. Ubogu, M. Tindall, V. Ubogu, M. Wood, D. Molloy, T. Scerener, W. Green, M. Veecon (Captain), A. Reed, I. Dallaglio, P. Scerener, P. Voller, Replacement: G. Rees for King.

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# Wilkinson finds room for Wilcox

JASON WILCOX reaped the benefit of the change in England management last night as he was called up by Howard Wilkinson, the caretaker coach, for Wednesday's Wembley friendly international with France. Wilcox becomes the first player specifically chosen by Wilkinson, who made no changes to the list he had been left by Glenn Hoddle when he named the 24-man squad last week before his dismissal.

The Blackburn left-winger joined the rest of the party at Bisham Abbey last night as cover for Paul Merson, who picked up a knock in Aston Villa's match against Black-

burn on Saturday. His inclusion, after nearly three years without a call-up, strengthens speculation that Wilkinson will revert to a 4-4-2 formation. The original squad had no left-footed attacking player in it.

Wilcox has played one previous international, against Hungary at Wembley in May 1994. That was in the build-up to Euro 96 and, though he performed creditably, he was not given a game on the subsequent tour of China and left out of the championship squad. Injury, followed by suspensions and periodic loss of form, have

kept him out of the England squad since, though he was put on stand-by in one of Hoddle's early selections and played in England B's defeat to Chile a year ago.

The 27-year-old has spent all his career at Blackburn and was a member of the successful 1994-95 championship-winning squad, when he formed a left-flank partnership with Graeme Le Saux which provided excellent service to Alan Shearer, now the England captain. The trio will now be reunited at Wembley.

Meanwhile, the sports minister Tony Banks has denied playing a part in Glenn Hoddle's downfall. Hoddle accused Banks of "jumping on the bandwagon" in the wake of the former England coach's comments about the disabled which eventually led to him losing his job.

However, Banks said: "I am disappointed that Glenn felt I had played a part in his removal. I certainly didn't jump in and as far as a bandwagon was concerned, when you are a public figure like the sports minister when a sports-related situation emerges you can't have no opinion."

"I was being asked 'well, what are his chances of survival?' And I was saying 'well, quite frankly his position is becoming increasingly untenable.'

"That is an assessment on his position. I never at any stage called for him to resign or for him to be sacked," he told Radio 5 Live.

Hoddle claimed on Saturday: "What disappointed me was the sports minister - don't you think he should have phoned me first? He jumped on the bandwagon a little bit too quick. That built up, that snowballed and in the end the press could react on the back of that."

Newsome close to £1.5m Forest move

RON ATKINSON is trying to sign John Newsome from his old club, Sheffield Wednesday, to shore up the Nottingham Forest defence.

Atkinson hopes to agree a £1.5m fee later this week for Newsome, who is out of Danny Wilson's side and is thought to be available at the right price.

The Forest manager had already made his move for Newsome before the eight-goal annihilation at the hands of Manchester United on Saturday. Wednesday were originally looking for around £2m for the former Leeds centre-half, but may release him for less.

Atkinson could have to sell to buy and there may yet be a deal for the controversial striker Pierre van Hooijdonk to leave. Leeds United remain interested in the Dutchman.

Atkinson could be ready to follow up a £5m bid made it December for Real Mallorca striker Daniel Garcia Lara - known as Dani, according to re-

ports in Spain. The Spanish First Division side told Arsenal that they would consider a move at the end of the season for the Catalan player, but officials from the Gunners attended Mallorca's match with Salamanca last week with a view to discussing a loan deal.

The Football Association will await police reports before deciding whether to take any action following trouble at Saturday's Second Division match between Manchester City and Millwall.

Eight Millwall supporters and three City fans were arrested following trouble during and after the match at Maine Road, which City won 3-0. A Greater Manchester Police spokesman confirmed today that nine officers were injured.

Last September's meeting between the two sides at the New Den was also marred by problems on and off the pitch after a brawl between several players.

## Beckenbauer's rap for German 'journeymen'

FRANZ BECKENBAUER yesterday branded the German national team a "bunch of journeymen" after their 3-0 defeat by the United States.

Beckenbauer, who captained West Germany to World Cup victory in 1974 and coached them to their triumph in 1990, spoke as Germany's decline continued. Beckenbauer, now Bayern Munich's president and head of his country's bid to stage the 2006 World Cup, said: "There are too many mediocre players, they are journeymen. Where have the talented players gone? Players like [Andi] Breime, [Rudi] Voller and the young [Lothar] Matthäus."

Bruce Arena, the new coach of the United States team, was reluctant to bask in the glory after the victory. "It's certainly a good win for us," he said, "but we're not going to blow it out of context. It's a good win, but it's a friendly."

All three goals were scored by Americans based in Germany: Jovan Kirovski of Frankfurt, Tony Sanneh, once of DC United and now on his way to Hertha Berlin, and Claudio Reyna, in Italy.

Overseas Round-up

BY IAN DAVIES

Florentina's Serie A title ambitions took a knock as Milan halted their run of 10 home wins with a 0-0 draw and their striker Gabriel Batistuta suffered a knee injury. Giovanni Trapattoni, the Florentina coach, warned that Batistuta could be out for a month after the Argentine twisted his knee midway through the second half.

In Spain, Barcelona seized a three-point lead in La Liga with a 2-1 win over Extremadura, while Real Madrid moved into joint second place with Celta Vigo after beating Valladolid 3-2 with a hat-trick from Raul.

Second-placed Lazio closed the gap with a 3-0 victory at home to Perugia that cuts Fiorentina's lead to a point. Marcelo "the Matador" Salas, Lazio's Chilean import, scored in each half after setting up Christian Vieri's 42nd minute opener as Rome's big spenders side set a club record of nine successive wins - just one short of the best seen in Serie A.

The French midfielder Youri Djorkaeff hit a hat-trick in fifth-placed Olympique, who play Manchester United in the quarter-finals of the European Cup next month, took their record at Marseilles won 3-1 at home to Bastia to go two points clear at the top of their League.

Meanwhile, in Italy,

five games by beating the moderate Empoli 5-1. Roberto Baggio opened the scoring with a superb sixth-minute free-kick, David Beckham's old rival, the Argentine Diego Simeone, added a second before Djorkaeff added his other two goals in the 67th and 90th minutes.

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Celta Vigo impressed with a 4-1 win over Villarreal. Moises Garcia gave Villarreal the lead in the 27th minute, but Juan Sanchez equalised two minutes before the break. Michel Salgado gave Celta the lead in the 81st minute, the Bulgarian Lubo Penev scored a third from the penalty spot on 87 minutes and the Israeli Haim Revivo made it 4-1 in injury time.

In France, the Italian striker Fabrizio Ravanelli scored twice as Marseilles won 3-1 at home to Bastia to go two points clear at the top of their League.

THE REHABILITATION of Dean Holdsworth goes on. Bolton's record signing, reviled by the club's supporters as overpaid, overrated and over the hill, was again their match-winner at Blundell Park on Saturday.

Bolton have sold last season's leading scorer, Nathan Blake, and now this season's, Aron Gunnlaugson, but Holdsworth has conveniently rediscovered the knack of troubling them in.

The former Wimbledon striker is not scoring memorable goals; the one he scored at the season's start was as crabby as anything you could find on the forecourt. But it took his tally for the season to nine, of which four have been scored in the last three games, all of them won to keep Bolton in touch with

BY PAUL NEWMAN

Crystal Palace Birmingham City

1 1

Birmingham striker having gone down under an innocuous challenge from Craig Moore.

Nearly two minutes of added time had been played when Birmingham's Gary Rowett and Martin Grainger converged on a ball five yards outside their penalty area. Rowett attempted to clear the ball upfield, but it cannoned off Grainger and Peter Ndlovu failed to provide any threat from the flanks, and Furlong and Dele Adebola looked cumbersome in attack.

While the goal gave Palace

deserved reward for their industry, the greater justice was it denied Birmingham a win. On this evidence you could not imagine how Trevor Francis' side had got into a First Division play-off position, let alone stake a claim for one of the automatic promotion places.

It was hard to recall a single

attacking move of note from

Birmingham in 90 minutes.

Their goal came from a hotly

disputed Paul Furlong penalty

early in the second half, the

pointed. The first 45 minutes

was the best I've seen since

being here but I'm not going to

get carried away."

Coppell is well aware of the

size of his task. Mark Goldberg,

the chairman, having already

torn the guts out of the side by

selling nearly all the best play-

ers, is now warning that several

more still have to go as he pays

the price for his ill-advised ap-

pointment of Venables and for

his poor record in the transfer

market.

Goldberg inherited a first-

team squad that featured play-

ers of the quality of Matt

Jansen, Attilio Lombardo,

Marc Edwardy, Dean Gordon,

Neil Shipperley, Bruce Dyer,

Paul Warhurst and Hermann

Hreidarsson. Such a squad

were rightly considered pro-

motion material, but, with the

players they have left, avoiding

relegation is now Palace's only

realistic target.

Of the 14 on duty here, three

were youngsters who had one

start between them and five

more had made fewer than 20

first team appearances for the

club. Even more tellingly, they

had scored a total of just 16

goals for Palace between them;

indeed, Palace do not have a

player on their books who has

scored more than eight goals

for the club.

At most clubs such a situ-

ation would have the fans calling

for the chairman's head, but

Palace supporters are a docile

bunch. Perhaps, perversely,

they derive amusement from

Goldberg's attempts to justify

his actions. "People might think

it's strange given what's hap-

pened in terms of player sales

and losing the manager, but we

are getting stronger and more

stable all the time," he said in

Saturday's programme. "We

are certainly moving in the

right direction now." Well that's

all right then.

Goals: Furlong (49, pen); Grainger

(50, og); 1-1.

Crystal Palace (5-3-2): Attilio

Lombardo, Marc Edwardy, Bruce

Dyer, Neil Shipperley, Hermann

Hreidarsson, Peter Ndlovu, Dele

Adebola, Paul Furlong, Peter

McKenna (both 53), Substitute not

used: Woolley.

Birmingham (4-4-2): Poole, Rowett,

Blundell (23), Johnson, Charlton,

McKenna (23), Furlong, Grainger, Foster,

McKenna (53), Substitute not

used: Hughes, Furlong.

Referee: C Miller (Gloucester)

Attendance: 15,996.

Man of the match: Leigh

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Rangers  
open up  
12-point  
cushion

SCOTTISH  
ROUNDUP

## Bell drops clanger over ban on Sentinel man

BRIAN HORTON'S first victory as Port Vale manager failed to make the headlines in the *Stoke Sentinel's Green On* on Saturday evening for a simple reason - the *Sentinel's* reporter was barred by the club from attending the game.

The sanction against sportswriter Martin Spinks was imposed by Vale's 67-year-old chairman, Bill Bell, who has found himself the target of Vale fans' displeasure after sacking their manager of 15 years, John Rudge, two weeks ago. Bell's rage was apparently sparked by an attack of van-

dalism at his garage business, W T Bell Ltd, in which cars on the forecourt had their wind-screens smashed.

According to the *Sentinel*, Bell telephoned the sports desk on Saturday morning after discovering the damage, blaming Spinks for the attack. "It's your writing that's done this," he reportedly said. "While I'm here, keep away."

A bemused Spinks commented: "To virtually accuse me of inciting people to vandalise cars on his garage forecourt simply beggars belief." What upset Bell, appar-

ently, was Spinks's reporting of the so-called "flat cap march" organised by supporters in honour of Rudge and his trademark headgear.

More than 400 Vale fans took part in the march, all wearing flat caps and releasing 843 balloons - one for each match of their former manager's reign.

Now Bell, chairman for 12 years, is threatening to sell his controlling interest in the club, for which he is believed to want some £2m. Meanwhile, the *Sentinel* is standing behind its man and will leave Bell affairs unreported.

## Whitby's away-day paradise goes on

WHILE FORTUNES go from bad to worse for Scarborough, who slipped to the bottom of the Third Division after their 5-1 home thrashing by Cambridge coincided with Hull's shock 2-0 win at Brentford, those of their Yorkshire coast neighbours, Whitby Town, go from strength to strength.

This is in no small part down to the Seasiders' extraordinary away record.

Town FA Vase winners two years ago and Unibond First Division champions last season, have not lost away from home this season and only once in the last two campaigns, a record extended on Saturday with victory at Aylesbury in the FA Trophy.

The Ducks, whose FA Cup exploits earned them nation-

al fame not so long ago, had themselves lost only once at home this season and lead the Ryman League by a point. None the less, they could not find a way past Whitby, even though the Yorkshire side had a man sent off only five minutes into the second half.

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The Ducks, whose FA



# Forest bedevilled by Beckham

By NICK HARRIS

Nottingham Forest  
Manchester United

"YOUR BOY had a good game," the Norwegian journalist said to the proud father as he waited outside the dressing-room for his son to emerge.

"Thanks," said Mr Beckham, knowing that although it had been Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole who had made Big Ron's side look rather small by scoring twice each, and Ole Gunnar Solskjær who had then doubled the tally to a disrespectful level, it had been his son, David, who had been the real Goliath in the humiliation of Nottingham Forest.

"How can you describe it? The finishing was amazing," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said when asked how he felt his team had performed.

"I don't think it's ever happened before," he added of the four goals that Solskjær scored after coming on 18 minutes from the end.

"The boy's a finisher. There's no question about that."

The United manager acknowledged how strong his attacking options now are. "In the second half you couldn't say there was a weakness in any of the forwards," he said. "And to have 92 goals by February 1999 of which have come in the Premiership is pleasing."

Ferguson added his forwards are aware of his dilemma when it comes to deciding which striking combination to select, and, apparently, they understand his problem.

"Ole's an intelligent lad and I think there's a realisation that he is up against two fantastic, in-form strikers," Ferguson said. "But he's a terrific sub," he added, with a wry smile, of the man who helped United to the biggest Premiership away win since the start in 1992.

For David Beckham, there was only praise. "Marvellous, he can put the ball where he wants," said Ferguson of Beckham's passing, which on Saturday was as accurate and perfectly weighted as it is possible to be.

Apart from the sublime distribution, the young Londoner still being booed for his red card against Argentina, yawn, yawn) also displayed a hunger for possession, intelligent off-the-ball running and an almost



Ole Gunnar's blazing: Manchester United substitute Solskjær beats the Nottingham Forest defence to score the first of his four goals at the City Ground Empics

telepathic relationship with Yorke and Cole. Watching the three in harmony was, at times, mesmerising, with Beckham either carving clever channels down the right and then picking out his man, or collecting the ball in midfield and acting as a merciful servant for the striking pair, slotting in behind them as they set off on perfectly timed runs and delivering the telling pass on cue.

All this bodes well for the English team and their caretaker, Howard Wilkinson, who was at the City Ground to watch his United contingent in action. United's young lions all came

through the game unscathed.

(although Gary Neville hurt his ankle in a challenge with Hugo Portillo and will need monitoring) and Wilkinson will have been pleased with Cole, whose goals further justified Glenn Hoddle's last act as coach in recalling him.

United's rich period of form could probably not come at a better time for Ferguson either, with the title race intensifying and the European Cup quarter-final first leg less than a month away. For Ron Atkinson, the defeat could not have come at a worse time. A week after he had marshalled Forest to their

first win in 19 games, they were torn to pieces.

United were superlative, but they were certainly not hindered by the gaping holes that were left around the Forest penalty area. "In a nutshell, we got murdered," Atkinson said. "United are a magnificent side and they proved it today. We contributed a hit towards it as well. Quite a hit. They were quality all over the field and we weren't as good as we could have been."

Asked about Solskjær, Atkinson could only grin and say: "He got four didn't he? Good job they didn't put him on earlier."

No one felt it appropriate to ask the Forest manager what he thought about the United fans' chants of "Big Ron for England".

Goals: Yorke (2) 0-1; Rogers (6) 1-1; Cole (2) 1-2; Cole (4) 1-3; Yorke (5) 1-4; Solskjær (2) 1-5; Solskjær (87) 1-6; Solskjær (19) 1-7; Solskjær (19) 1-8; Solskjær (19) 1-9; Solskjær (19) 1-10; Solskjær (19) 1-11; Solskjær (19) 1-12; Solskjær (19) 1-13; Solskjær (19) 1-14; Solskjær (19) 1-15; Solskjær (19) 1-16; Solskjær (19) 1-17; Solskjær (19) 1-18; Solskjær (19) 1-19; Solskjær (19) 1-20; Solskjær (19) 1-21; Solskjær (19) 1-22; Solskjær (19) 1-23; Solskjær (19) 1-24; Solskjær (19) 1-25; Solskjær (19) 1-26; Solskjær (19) 1-27; Solskjær (19) 1-28; Solskjær (19) 1-29; Solskjær (19) 1-30; Solskjær (19) 1-31; Solskjær (19) 1-32; Solskjær (19) 1-33; Solskjær (19) 1-34; Solskjær (19) 1-35; Solskjær (19) 1-36; Solskjær (19) 1-37; Solskjær (19) 1-38; Solskjær (19) 1-39; Solskjær (19) 1-40; Solskjær (19) 1-41; Solskjær (19) 1-42; Solskjær (19) 1-43; Solskjær (19) 1-44; Solskjær (19) 1-45; Solskjær (19) 1-46; Solskjær (19) 1-47; Solskjær (19) 1-48; Solskjær (19) 1-49; Solskjær (19) 1-50; Solskjær (19) 1-51; 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## SPORT

PEARL LEADS GOLD CUP STRING P20 • ANELKA THE PREDATOR P18

Cricket: Indian spinner destroys Pakistan's second innings to emulate Jim Laker's feat and earn place in history

## Kumble's 10-wicket perfection

BY NICK RIPPINGTON

THE INDIAN leg-spinner Anil Kumble yesterday wrote himself a place in cricket history when he took all 10 Pakistan second innings wickets to lead the hosts to a series-leveling victory in Delhi.

Kumble emulated Englishman Jim Laker's feat against Australia 43 years ago, finishing with 10-74 from 21.3 overs as India routed Pakistan by 212 runs in the second Test to square the short two-match series. Laker took 10-53 in the Manchester Test in 1956, finishing with 19 wickets in the match.

Kumble, a 28-year-old computer engineer, proved unplayable on the dusty Ferozeshah Kotla track, providing a sensational finish to Pakistan's first Test series on Indian soil in 12 years. Wasim Akram's Pakistan, chasing a mammoth victory target of 420, had no answer to Kumble's guile and were shot out for 207 an hour after tea on the fourth day.

## KUMBLE'S VICTIMS

Pakistan - Second Innings  
Saeed Anwar c Lakman b Kumble ... 69  
Shahid Afridi c Mongia b Kumble ... 41  
Ijaz Ahmed b Kumble ..... 0  
Imran Qureshi b Kumble ..... 6  
Yousaf Youhana c Kumble ..... 0  
Moin Khan c Ganguly b Kumble ..... 3  
Salim Malik b Kumble ..... 15  
Wasim Akram c Lakman b Kumble ..... 37  
Muhammad Akram c Dravid b Kumble 1  
Saqib Maqsood b Kumble ..... 0  
Waqar Younis not out ..... 6  
Babar (10b, 2w, 15b, 2b) ..... 39  
Total (60.3 overs) ..... 207  
Pak vs Ind 1st Test (115-115) 115-115 5-127-6  
128 7-186 8-198 9-198  
Bowler: Srinath (12-2-50-0) (nb-1); Kumble 26-3  
9-74-10 (nb-1); Singh 18-5-51-0  
India won by beat Pakistan by 212 runs.

RECENT TEST INNINGS BOWLING  
10-53 J C Laker: ENGLAND v Australia, Old Trafford, 1956; 10-74 A K Kumble: INDIA v Pakistan, New Delhi, 1999.  
9-28 G A Lohmann: SAfrica v India, 1994.  
9-37 J C Laker: ENGLAND v Australia, Old Trafford, 1956.  
9-52 R J Hadlee: NEW ZEALAND v Australia, Sydney, 1985/86.  
9-56 A K Ashraf: PAKISTAN v INDIA, 1987/88.  
9-57 D E Macleod: ENGLAND v Australia, The Oval, 1994.  
9-62 W M Mairal: ENGLAND v West Indies, 1994/95.  
9-63 J M Parkes: ENGLAND v Australia, Kanpur, 1959/60.  
9-63 Kapil Dev: INDIA v West Indies, Ahmedabad, 1983/84.  
9-65 D G Gooch: ENGLAND v Australia, 1984/85.  
9-92 J M Noriega: WEST INDIES v India, Port of Spain, 1970/71.  
9-102 S P Gopala: INDIA v West Indies, Kanpur, 1958/59.



History maker: India's Anil Kumble grabs a stump after claiming the last of 10 Pakistan wickets at the Ferozeshah Kotla stadium in New Delhi yesterday

AP

grey, now Lord Cowdrey, said: "I never thought it would happen again. It is so difficult to do. Of course, you need to bowl brilliantly. But the chances of no other Test match bowler taking a wicket at the other end means you need to stay lucky too."

[Laker's Surrey spin twin] Tony Lock also bowled beautifully at Old Trafford but he only got one wicket out of 20 - and that was the one that I caught. I never thought an all-10 would happen again. It is so unlikely for a leg-spinner against Pakistan, because they can play it pretty well. It is a phenomenal achievement. I am particularly pleased a leg-spinner has done it. It is a great day."

Ray Illingworth, another former England captain, was also at pains to point out the odds stacked against anyone taking all 10 wickets. "It's a tremen-

dous achievement at any level, but to do it in an international is almost unbelievable," said the ex-Yorkshire off-spinner. "The hard part is when you get to number seven or eight. I've played in matches and taken the first seven or eight wickets, but those were in county games. It's not so bad when your team-mates can take it a hit easy at the other end, but this was a Test match."

Kumble finished with 21 wickets from two games - seven wickets at Madras and 14 in this Test. He now has 234 Test wickets from 51 matches, having taken five wickets in an innings 12 times and 10 in a match on two occasions.

The odds were heavily stacked against Pakistan when they began their second innings. But openers Saeed Anwar and Shahid Afridi gave

the tourists a glimmer of hope when they smashed 101 for the first wicket in 98 minutes. Kumble, however, swung the match India's way as Pakistan lost six top order batsmen for the addition of 27 runs.

The rout began with a contentious decision by the debutant Indian umpire AV Jayaprakash, who ruled Afridi

caught behind by wicket-keeper Nayan Mongia when the

ball appeared to have missed the bat. Kumble's next delivery

rapped Ijaz Ahmed on the full

and Jayaprakash, a former first-class cricketer, once again

raised his finger.

Fired up by the twin success, Kumble went on to complete his

India 250 and 531. Pakistan 172 and 207. Two-match series drawn 1-1.

The Anil Kumble story, page 21

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## Everton bowed by buoyant Burton

BY JON CULLEY

EVERTON ENDED a goal famine spanning more than six hours when Nick Barmby gave them a first-half lead at Pride Park yesterday but an inspired nightmare by the home side yielded two goals from the Jamaican international, Deon Burton. The victory lifts Derby into sixth place, and leaves Everton with only the bottom three below them.

Everton, already stretched by injuries and suspensions,

were an altogether different proposition after it.

They thoroughly deserved to come out on top, their only disappointment a hamstring injury to the striker Paul Wanchope that rules him out at least for next Saturday's FA Cup fifth-round tie at Huddersfield.

It would be unfair to say that Everton looked like relegation material but their chronic inability to produce a regular stream of goals - they have

scored only 14 in 24 Premiership matches - remains a major concern. "Moral has been good but it is important that we don't lose that," Everton's manager, Walter Smith, said. "I was disappointed that we did not hang on for a point but, then again, we had three 18-year-olds on the field and it is asking a lot. Losing Wanchope did not help, leaving us short of power in the air."

One of those youngsters, the

prolific youth team marksman Francis Jeffers, was making his first start one month on from his 19th birthday, coming into this match from a midweek hat-trick in an FA Youth Cup tie against Swindon. He made an impressive beginning, playing an important role in Barmby's goal, although the pace and tension of the occasion took their toll in the later stages.

Derby enjoyed early possession, going close through Francesco Balano's header and Lee Carsley's 25-yard drive, but after 37 minutes they paid for their tendency to make one pass to many when Wanchope lost possession at the edge of the Everton box. The ball was played forward to Ibrahima Bakayoko, who was afforded time to find Olivier Dacourt in midfield. The Frenchman threaded a pass to Jeffers, who took the ball inside Igor Stimac and was lining up a shot for himself when Barmby spotted a gap to Russell Hoults left and stole the ball from the youngster's feet to slot it home.

The goal was Everton's first

in six hours and six minutes of Premiership play but the reorganisation required when Unsworth stayed in the dressing room after half-time disturbed their rhythm. Michael Ball dropped into the back three and Mitch Ward, who began as right wing-back, was obliged to switch flanks as 18-year-old Adam Farley stepped out for his senior debut.

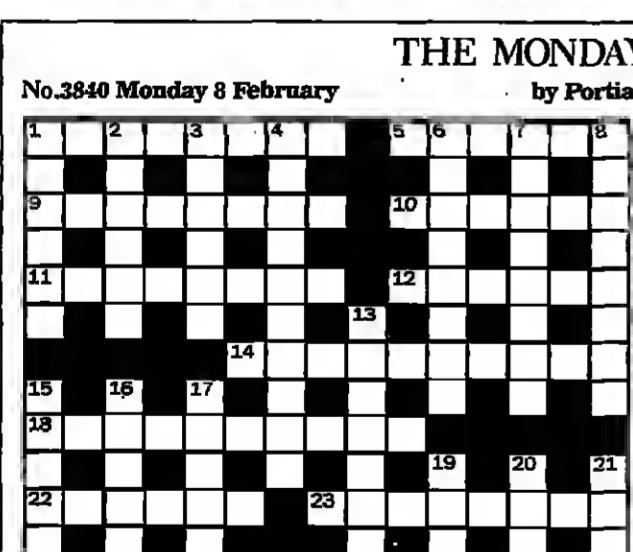
Farley was Everton's first in six hours and six minutes of Premiership play but the reorganisation required when Unsworth stayed in the dressing room after half-time disturbed their rhythm. Michael Ball dropped into the back three and Mitch Ward, who began as right wing-back, was obliged to switch flanks as 18-year-old Adam Farley stepped out for his senior debut.

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17 Sodium permeates the Continental form of mineral (8)  
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20 Note order's wearing old type of cloak (6)  
21 May be simple to repair (6)





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THE INDEPENDENT

8 February 1999

# MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Kirkus / AP

**A** RESTAURANT. A bar. A nervous journalist sips mineral water and scans the foreign pages. He is biding up on the imminent civil war in East Timor. He knows little about East Timor. The man he is about to interview, however, knows a great deal about East Timor. And he has a famous tendency to shout at people who are insufficiently knowledgeable about political tyranny everywhere in the world. In Indonesia or Turkey or South America. Or, indeed, in Washington. The journalist shakily turns the pages. A drop of perspiration crashes on to a map of Iraq's no-fly zone. This is not going to be easy. The man whose arrival is imminent never gives interviews. He is famously irascible. He puts the frighteners on people. He is a byword for aggression. The word "truculence" acquires new shape and meaning when he is around. He will not talk about his plays. He will not talk about his personal life. He is unlikely to want to chat about *Sex and the City*. Whatever you ask him he will probably tell you to eff off, before bawling you out for having gone to Turkey on holiday in 1987. Enter Harold Pinter through the revolving door. He says hello. A brisk conversation ensues about whether the restaurant will allow photographs inside their establishment. They won't. He tramps out again, to be snapped further up the road, in the rain. "Shall I come with you?" I ask. Pinter turns. "Why don't you stay here in the dry?" he says with a note of genial contempt. It is the first sign that everything is going to be all right.

We sit at the famous corner table in Le Caprice and for two-and-a-half hours Pinter talks about himself. We discuss his plays, his life, his use of language, his opinions of poets. Amazingly, politics enters the conversation only as it were, organically. He never shows the least inclination to rant. Nobody could be more charming, more forthcoming, more genial and (oddly) more British. He is courteous even under provocation...

"Tell me, Sir Harold..." I began. "I'm not Sir Harold," he interrupted. "I turned down the knighthood. I wrote Mr Major a very courteous letter, thanked him and said I was unable to accept such an honour from a Conservative government." Whoops. Later I muddied up some details from *The Caretaker* and *The Birthday Party*. He didn't mind. I corrected him when he quoted some lines from Tennyson's "Titania", then found I was wrong. He affected not to care. When we ordered the conversation hit a Pinteresque stride, as he does.

He ordered a small tomato salad dish on the menu:

HP: I think I'll just have... the cod.

JW: No starter?

HP: I'd like a... mixed tomatoes and basil.

JW: Mixed tomatoes and basil?

HP: Yes.

JW: To start off with?

HP: Yes. (Pause). And I won't have anything else with the cod.

Silence.

JW: You're sure it's a starter?

HP: Yes. (Pause). You can have it as a starter.

JW: You could have the plum tomatoes and basil galette, which are in the proper starters menu...

HP: But I don't want the tomatoes and basil galette...

He had, it seemed, no private agenda, no urgent rodmonade about the fresh wave of bombings in Iraq. But he wanted to clear up something. Last Sunday, a newspaper profile of Tom Stoppard had trotted out an old chestnut that irritated him: how Pinter once tried to enlist Stoppard's support to get the Comedy Theatre renamed the Pinter Theatre, and how Stoppard had amusingly replied, "Why don't you change your name to Harold Comedy?"

It never happened. Pinter has written to complain. "It's totally without foundation. Sure, I had five plays put on there since 1990, and Bill Kenwright made a joke and said, 'Why don't they call it the Pinter Theatre?' But now I find myself landed with this extraordinary reputation." His brow darkened. "There's an illness in the press in this country. To quote a stupid little tale like that, without any at-

tempt to confirm there was any truth in it whatsoever, is only too common. They feel they can say what they like just for the hell of it." Actually, I said, it's more to do with the journalistic habit of hoarding up apocryphal stories, like squirrels storing acorns. We talked about the critical reception of his play *Betrayal*, which was premiered at the Lyttelton in 1978 (with Michael Gambon, Daniel Massey and Penelope Wilton), was later filmed (with Ben Kingsley, Jeremy Irons and Patricia Hodge) and is now back at the National with Anthony Calf, Douglas Hodge and Imogen Stubbs. Though now held to be one of his finest works, a subtle cat's cradle of mutual betrayals, working backwards in time so that the audience always knows the reason for the undercurrents of malice and mistrust beneath the dialogue, it was published on its first outing. Michael Billington, later to be Pinter's biographer and heartiest authenticator, wrote: "What distresses me is the pitifully thin strip of human experience it explores and its obsession with the tiny ripples on the stagnant pond of bourgeois-affluent life", and suggested that Pinter had betrayed his talent. Had Pinter been hurt?

"I'm never hurt," he said, smiling. "I was hurt just once, in 1958, when *The Birthday Party*, my first professionally produced play, was destroyed. I went out at 7.30am, to get the morning papers, went to a cafe and had a cup of tea and read them. They were all... each one was worse than the last. It was a quite an ugly experience, that early-morning read in the cafe. I thought I might give the whole thing up and go and write a novel. But my wife at the time,

Vivien [Merchant], said, 'Come on, you've had bad notices as an actor, pull yourself together', and Donald McWhinnie at the BBC commissioned me to write *A Slight Ache*. But it was very good for me to have such a beginning. Since then I've never been hurt by what's been said by critics."

*Betrayal* received one notice that thrilled Pinter. It was a private note from the great Samuel Beckett, who was Pinter's friend, drinking buddy, correspondent and inspiration from when they met in Paris in 1968 until his death in 1989. The note refers to the final scene in this back-to-front play, when the affair between Emma and Jerry is just starting. "That last first look in the shadows, after all those in the light to come, wrings the heart."

BY JOHN WALSH

"I think that's better than the whole play put together," said Pinter fondly. "We used to meet, whenever he was in London, whenever I was in Paris. I sent him all my plays."

"I sent him one called *Silence* which we were putting on at the Aldwych. He wrote back and said, 'I like it very much, but if I were you I'd look at the third speech at the bottom of page nine. I looked at it and thought, 'What? There's nothing wrong with it. Perfectly good speech.' The play went into rehearsal. I went away for a few days, got back, rang Peter [Hall, the director] and he said, 'It's going very well. There's just this one speech at the bottom of...' And I said, 'Don't tell me. Just cut it out.'

You can't easily imagine Pinter taking instructions from anyone. Though his legendary truculence, aggression, etc are on hold today, he radiates a hum of violence, a low-frequency rumble of hard energy. Now 68, he looks 52. His intense brown eyes scrutinise you fiercely. His voice is an odd hybrid, plummy-stentorian, and tends to come down on certain words like a stamping foot. He is phenomenally masculine. His conversation is salted with obscenities. He likes facts and vivid memories. He rarely uses abstract nouns when speaking, just as he steers clear of tender emotions in his drama.

His plays are famously filled with threat and menace and lurking violence that lies in families, marriages and political systems. His later poems (as collected in *Various Voices: Prose, Poetry, Politics 1948-1998*) impersonate the voices of CIA aggressors with triumphal, obscene smugness. It's odd to think that this noble pacifist, this former conscientious objector, this dove who would like to arraign President Clinton for the bombing of Khartoum, seems himself to be an embodiment of toughness, pugilism, attitude, intimidation.

Have you ever, I asked, been punched in the face? Or have you punched someone in the face? Or were you a bully at school? Or were you intimidated by someone else? Have you discovered a capacity for violence in yourself?

He wasn't the least bit fazed. "I have the feeling that lots of people have wanted to punch me in the face for a very long time," he laughed. "Not theatre critics, but political journalists and people in other spheres. I think they find me a pain in the arse."

Seriously, though, I said. And he told me a story that may, or may not, explain the source of his commitment.

"I was 22. There used to be a bar on Sloane Square Station, and I went to get the tube to Chiswick. There was this chap at a table and I heard him say, 'Listen - the thing is - Hitler was quite right to do what he did to the Jews. In fact he should have gone further.' He was some City man, a bit pissed. So I went to the bar, ordered a half of Whitbread and wondered what I should do. The man with him said, 'I think that's a load of rubbish,' and I said, involuntarily, 'Yeah - it's a load of balls.' And the bloke looked at me and said, 'I suppose you're a filthy yid yourself.' So I said, 'Say that again', and he said, 'I suppose you're a filthy yid.' And I whacked him." - Pinter drove his fist into the palm of his left hand with a sharp report that made the restaurant jump. "I remember the blood spurting down his left cheek. I said, 'You shouldn't go around saying that kind of thing,' and picked up my drink, whereupon he hit me. He came right off the back of the bar and hit me straight in the face. It happened 40 years ago and I remember it as if it were yesterday, the tables and chairs all over the place. I was very fit in those days, so you could say I overwhelmed him. I went a little crazy."

"Anyway, the stationmaster came in with a policeman and the fight was stopped. But then the man himself came up to me, blood all over his shirt, and said, 'Let me ask you one question. Are you a Jew?' I said, 'Yes.' He said, 'Well, I can understand Continued on page 8

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## Woodhead's future

Sir: Would it not be regrettable if Mr Woodhead, whose recent pronouncement about sixth-formers and sex was so uncharacteristically liberal ("Sex between teachers and pupils can be 'educative' - schools chief", 6 February), were to be sacked for it, rather than for his primitive and simplistic concept of education? CHRISTOPHER R SHUTE  
*Education Now*  
Polesworth, Staffordshire

Sir: I was profoundly shocked to read of Chris Woodhead's suggestion that a relationship between a teacher and a sixth-former should not necessarily lead to the teacher's dismissal.

The requisite secrecy and lies of such an affair cause unquestionable emotional damage, such as an inability to trust or to build a more conventional relationship. I know because several years ago I saw a classmate suffer in such a situation. I fear she will never be able to sustain a balanced, loving relationship due to one of a minority who believe themselves above the moral code of the teaching profession.

This profession relies on trust and authority to function, and to allow one who abuses this fact contract between parents and teachers to remain within teaching is unthinkable. Teacher-pupil relationships rarely have anything to do with the love and care of another person; more often they concern selfishness, insecurity and power. To my mind it would be extremely dangerous to convey the message that such relationships are acceptable, especially within institutions that are supposed to protect young people, not prey upon them. E.J. GRAFTON  
Durham

Sir: Following your front page headline publication of the report on Chris Woodhead's comment, the Chief Inspector of Schools has been widely reported elsewhere to have claimed in his defence that this was not his "real view".

This surely calls for Mr Woodhead's honesty and professionalism into question. He should tender his resignation forthwith. BERNIE PARDON  
Draycott, Derbyshire

Sir: If a football coach can lose his job for a rather innocuous rehashing of a standard, logical concept, can the Chief Inspector of Schools, in his drive to raise standards, get away with an apparent condoning of sex between teachers and pupils? I bet I'm disappointed. TOM HARDY  
London N1

## Blinkered economy

Sir: It is now well recognised that in many service industry areas there is overcapacity ("How is it that all these gloomy businessmen are employing more people?", 4 February).

There are too many shops, getting to be too many complexes, too many pub chains expanding simultaneously. If you overexpand capacity it is not surprising that surveys show gloom, even after adjustment. The jam is spread more thinly, sales and profit fall, and depression takes a hold.

Add to that the continual surveys telling consumers that prices are too high and you must expect consumer resistance.

It is getting to an Asian state of mindless overexpansion without a rational look at markets.

Look at the population figures. In 2001 there will be 1.8 million fewer 20 to 29-year-olds than in 1991, a 20 per cent fall in 10 years. There is growth in the 30 to 59 bracket, but virtual stability in the numbers of OAPs.

All these new service industries, shops, pubs, multiplexes, seem not only to target younger customers, but need a young and vibrant workforce, and both areas are declining.



Moscow in Winter No 1: Pensioners meet in Sokolniki Park at 1pm every Sunday to dance to music piped over the public address Andy Johnstone

More alarming is the apparent indifference of the business community to population changes. Over the next 20 years the numbers of workers aged 20 to 44 declines, with an increase in older workers. But the numbers of pensioners and the very elderly escalate rapidly. There is virtually no sign that business has begun to realise that over the next 20 years service industries need to make major adjustments.

All one can see is a set of developers who apparently operate with a herd-like mentality and are locked in the past. R.E. CRUM  
Norwich

## Lottery winner

Sir: I am one of those consultants - a slightly overweight cat - who have made a killing, as David Benedict describes it, out of the Lottery ("Lottery with violence", 3 February).

"Without a doubt, the Lottery is the biggest disaster ever to befall arts funding in this country." Hang on - if that's a disaster, I'm all for it.

My colleagues and I have been consistently astonished that so many have not grasped the simple truth: for the first time in recorded history a British government, a Conservative one no less, decided to hand out money, just like that. The money hasn't always been handed out very well, but the Lottery has hardly been a disaster. What's disastrous about giving money to a theatre to repair a leaking roof?

Things obviously could have been done better, to put it mildly, in terms of organisation and planning, but David Benedict's proposition that the Lottery "has been catastrophic" is patently ridiculous. The arts, like the health service, are underfunded - that's the real problem. If we are thinking of catastrophes and disasters, I'd say the cockup over the Opera House in Cardiff was one. The Lottery-funded horror going up in its place another, and Lottery-funded banal a leaking roof?

Look at the population figures. In 2001 there will be 1.8 million fewer 20 to 29-year-olds than in 1991, a 20 per cent fall in 10 years. There is growth in the 30 to 59 bracket, but virtual stability in the numbers of OAPs.

All these new service industries, shops, pubs, multiplexes, seem not only to target younger customers, but need a young and vibrant workforce, and both areas are declining.

inadequate design, or the Millennium Commissioners' Dome, or the failure to support a splendid theatre. These are failures of imagination, a common failing everywhere.

By the way, our killing as fat cats has been a rather modest one: just a few mice, I'd say.

IAN JONES  
*Chadwick Jones Associates*  
London SW6

## Irish "obsession"

Sir: The letter about Oliver Cromwell (5 February) illustrates exactly why there is still an "Irish problem". With respect, the Irish are still so obsessed by the "evils" of British colonialism that it seems to prevent them from moving on.

Contrast their attitude with that of India which had British rule for a similar length of time but where all but a tiny minority have long since given up blaming the British for anything perceived to be wrong in their country.

This obsession with the admitted wrongs done to Ireland

300 odd years ago blinds many, but not all Irish people to other issues and the constant fomenting of this old wound largely accounts for the terrorist activities carried out in the name of Irish patriotism.

Your correspondent cannot be allowed to get away with his statement that we "honour the butcher" as if we were happily celebrating Cromwell's massacres in Ireland. When we honour the memory of Cromwell, we are looking at the way he became a symbol of the end of absolute monarchy and laid the foundations for a stronger nation. We clearly tend to overlook his excesses, particularly those in Ireland, but we must not judge the killings by 20th century standards but rather look at the age when they occurred. I do not seek to minimise these wrongdoings, merely to put them into context.

If we British had the same blinkered approach as your correspondent we would be constantly harassing the Italians for the activities of the Ancient

Romans - indeed, the Welsh might like to make their own case against the Irish raiders after the departure of the Romans.

ADRIAN SIMMONDS  
Enfield, Middlesex

Sir: History may indeed be bunk. Fintan O'Cinneide Tuit's conception of the capture of Drogheda in September 1649 certainly is.

Most intriguing of all are his assertions that Cromwell was guilty of "genocide" and condemned himself by his words.

Genocide is the deliberate killing of a nationality or ethnic group. The Drogheda garrison was made up of a hotch-potch of nationalities and under the command of a renegade English Cavalier - Sir Arthur Aston.

There is little, if any, contemporary evidence of indiscriminate killing of civilians.

Accusations of wholesale massacre of women and children orchestrated by Cromwell appear no earlier than the mid-19th century as an invention in support

of Irish nationalistic polemics. As for Cromwell's own words, I quote from his letter of 12 September 1649: "I offered mercy to the garrison of Tredagh (sic) in sending the Governor (Aston), a summons before I attempted the taking of it, which being refused brought their evil upon them..."

It was Aston, with his customary rashness, who put the lives of the town's people and garrison at peril, by attempting to fight off 12,000 troops with 3,000 poorly equipped men.

The claim that Cromwell wrote of burning alive "near 1,000 Irish" is nonsense.

Your correspondent would do better to turn his vitriol upon eight centuries' worth of murderous efforts of English, then British monarchs and their agents to impose themselves on the people of Ireland, with particular attention to the policies of King Charles I.

Oliver Cromwell knew how to deal with him.

DAVID E. EVANS  
Montgomery, Powys

## IN BRIEF

Sir: The Grammar School/High School system operates in this part of Warwickshire and until recently most of the High School children have had to carry their books with them wherever they went ("School bags", 3 February). The Grammar School children had proper lockers.

As a teacher of singing, I have found that many of my students who attend High Schools have difficulty in standing up properly during their lessons, whereas none of my students attending Grammar Schools have with this problem.

ALMA BRIGHT CLARKE  
Studley, Warwickshire

Sir: My attention has been drawn in a piece in your 27 January issue (People and Business) following Sir

Patrick Brown's appointment to our board. Far from being lambasted by regulators, Thame Slink has received considerable praise for its efforts to improve on the railway inherited from BR. Those efforts have seen trains refurbished, a major development to improve stations and security on the Wimbledon Loop, additional trains in service and, for many regular users, even more reliable and modern and reliable and by no stretch of the imagination could they be described as crumbling.

ANI HARRIS  
High Peak, Derbyshire

Sir: In her letter (4 February), Professor Elizabeth Stuart introduces us to the term "disabled theology". This is an example of disabled English?

JOHN TRETHEWEY  
Aberystwyth, Ceredigion  
London SE23

## Lovely Lewisham

Sir: I was sorry to read John Walsh's description of Lewisham as the "seriously nasty end of south London" (Comment, 4 February). The many thousands of Londoners who live, work or study here would disagree.

The area is fast becoming one of the safest and most popular places to live in London. You don't have to take my word for it. *The Independent* agrees! Last December, under the headline "No longer so cheap but increasingly cheerful" you report: "Lewisham has arrived... in Lewisham, properties are sold within hours".

Perhaps John Walsh would appreciate a tour of what *The Independent* calls "Lewisham's forgotten treasures". I would be happy to show him round.

Councillor DAVID SULLIVAN  
Leader  
Lewisham Council  
London SE23

## Schools off key

Sir: The pother about musical instruments in schools (leader, 5 February) entirely misses the point. Music is uniquely among the arts, and indeed among most subjects on the curriculum, the least popular. The reason is the Government's failure to supply enough half-decent music teachers (and allowed) to engage the latent enthusiasm of their students.

Until Mr Blunkett addresses this, it scarcely matters whether he offers the kids penny whistles or bagpipes. Electronic keyboards and computers will not, of themselves, make music lessons creative.

MALCOLM ROSS  
Dartington, Devon

Sir: Your article deals only with the minor issue of instruments available in our schools. The major issue is that talented mathematicians, scientists or linguists will receive their tuition free whereas promising musicians will have to pay for it. They often have to request to be excused from other lessons for instrument tuition, and have to catch up missed work and often attend school concert rehearsals, good PR for the schools, in their own time.

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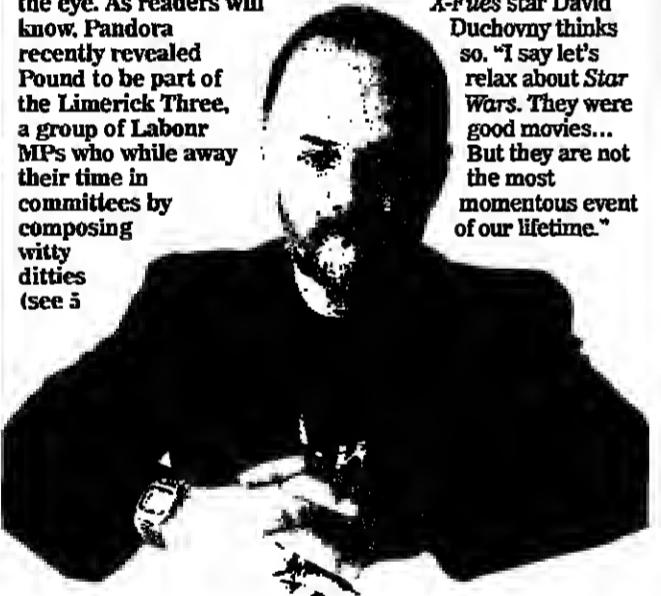
## PANDORA

NORMAN LAMONT smells a rat. The former Chancellor has been trying to find out why, last December, baggage belonging to General Pinochet's staff was broken into at Heathrow while they were being interviewed by Special Branch. Although nothing was taken from the bags, letters found in them were opened. Lamont has now received assurances from the Government, giving a categorical assurance that Special Branch was not involved. So, that leaves the finger pointing at the baggage handlers doesn't it? Lamont is dismissive of such a notion. "What would baggage handlers want with private letters?" The Tory peer has vowed to stay on the scent, telling Pandora: "I have great difficulty in accepting the assurances offered."

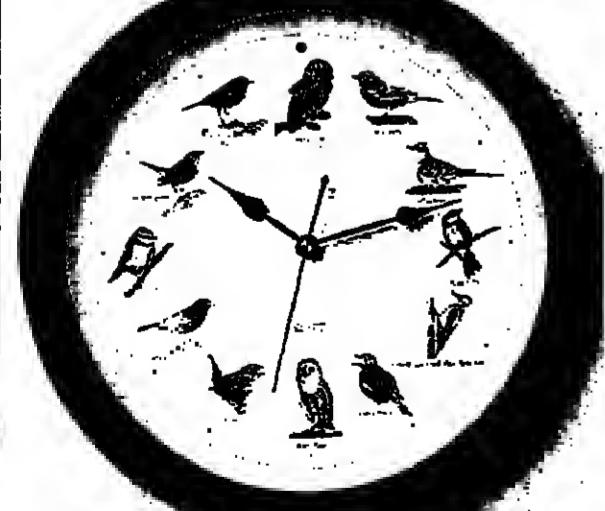
PANDORA HAS unearthed some more evidence of doubting Thomases. Labour MP Tam Dalyell recently asked the Ministry of Defence what it paid journalists for being "an asset" "an assistant" or for just "keeping their eyes open". Hacks looking to earn a little extra on the side may take some comfort from the Secretary of State George Robertson's evasive answer: "No journalist paid for work by my department is appointed directly in the terms of the categories set out by my honourable friend."

THE VETERAN DJ John Peel has some top tips for wangling free hotel accommodation. Peel (pictured) explains to the latest issue of Q magazine that if he stays in a hotel he expects some peace and quiet. "The last time I complained, the couple next door were in what the tabloids call a 'love romp'. I wrote a sarcastic letter to the hotel saying that the man had been rehearsing a seal act in the adjoining room. They gave me a free room the next time I went there!"

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A 50% deposit will be made to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds for each clock sold. RSPB registered Charity No. 207076.

BRITISH POLITICIANS see America as a magic spring of political vigour. Margaret Thatcher liked to put it about that she was as close as could be with Ronald Reagan, even though there is more in Reagan's memoirs about the Queen than about the Iron Lady. Kenneth Baker tramped round some of the worst schools in the world in south-east Washington, followed by several television crews, to promote his scheme for getting corporate money into our schools.

Tony Blair, not to be outdone, flies to go to Washington to attend seminars on the "middle way", organised by Bill Clinton's aide, Sidney Blumenthal. And now the hapless William Hague has chosen this moment of all moments to announce that he is off to the United States to learn from the Republicans how to be a compassionate conservative.

Since the Contract with America and Newt Gingrich's triumph in the 1994 mid-term elections, the Republican Party has fallen apart. Clinton thrashed Senator Bob Dole in the 1996 presidential election. Now Gingrich is gone, and the Republicans have lost two Speakers of the House in less than a month, which certainly meets Lady Bracknell's definition of carelessness. Most disastrous of all, the Republicans have totally miscalculated the

impact of their attempt to impeach the President, and will certainly be punished at the polls.

Americans were shocked by the way the Republicans in the House of Representatives turned the impeachment into a straight-down-the-line party issue. And they have seen how Trent Lott, the Republican majority leader in the Senate, the senator from Mississippi who comes out of the same clique of ultra-conservative Republicans who rammed the impeachment charges through the House, tried to do the same in the Senate.

Republicans got a sharp warning when they failed to make the usual mid-term gains in the elections last November. And now they face electoral disaster next year. One well-informed Washington political observer told me recently that he thinks the Republican Party could drop 40 seats in the House in 2000. The general prognosis is that they will lose control of the House and could lose the Senate as well.

Now, a lot can happen in 21 months. The Republicans may recover, though it is hard to see what they can do to erase the image they have given themselves of reckless fanatics out of touch with everyone except a handful of rich right-wing paymasters.

It is conceivable, too, that "moderate" Republicans such as George W Bush, the Governor of Texas, whom Hague is going to visit, may recapture control of the party from the right, though I don't hold my breath. What is far more likely is that the British Tories with exquisite timing, have chosen to publicise their sisters-under-the-skin relationship with the Republicans at precisely the moment when the Grand Old Party, as it likes to call itself, is headed for its worst hiding since Herbert Hoover.

Why would the Tory leadership want to do that? Well, for one thing

the memory is yet green of how a trip to Washington saved the party's bacon in 1992. Late in 1991, Shaun Woodward, now MP for Oxfordshire West, and then newly appointed as the party's communications director, flew to Washington with two colleagues to learn the mystic skills of American political power. Communism may be dead, and socialism discredited, but there was no Reagan revolution. There is such a thing as society. Margaret, and there is more to political wisdom than getting government off the backs of the people.

That is why Conservative governments have been chased from almost every country in western Europe, and why even in eastern Europe people have had second thoughts about the market. That is why Bill Clinton has twice been elected President of the United States. And it is one of the reasons why the Republicans are not waving but drowning in the US, even while the economy soars upward.

The other, of course, is that Republican conservatives in the United States have made the mistake of listening only to those who share their ideology. Which makes them soulmates for our own home-grown conservatives.

Godfrey Hodgson is the author of *The World Turned Right Side Up: a history of American conservatism since 1945*



GODFREY HODGSON  
*Hague has chosen a curious moment to travel to the US to learn from the Republicans*

## Sir Paul's spin cannot alter the uncomfortable truth



KATHY MARKS  
*Of all the players in the Lawrence case, it is the Met's commissioner who has most reason to sweat*

GIVEN THE dreadful failings exposed by the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, the Metropolitan Police might have been expected to be awaiting its findings with some humility. Instead, in an attempt to duck one of the worst roostings of its 170-year history, the Met has embarked on a last-minute propaganda offensive.

The aim is to rubbish Sir William Macpherson's report in advance of publication later this month, and the results so far are a credit to the force's spin doctors. Over recent days, a rash of articles has appeared in newspapers traditionally sympathetic to the police, and further pieces are in the pipeline.

The message is always the same. The inquiry cannot hope to do justice to Neville and Doreen Lawrence - the parents of the victim, the murdered black teenager - because it was hijacked by political activists hostile to the police and degenerated into a witch hunt intent on rooting out institutional racism.

Thus a columnist in *The Times* declared that the inquiry "has too much of the whiff of Salem to leave the unbiased anything but uneasy". The *Daily Telegraph*, meanwhile, denounced the inquiry's "McCarthyite approach" and warned that "a separate agenda is being foisted on a largely unwitting public".

Is it an accident that the two newspapers are singing from the same hymn sheet? Within the past fortnight, Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, has, at his own request, paid a visit to both *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph* to brief editors and journalists about the Lawrence case.

But the propaganda war is not being waged only at the Commissi-

sioner's level. After months of confusion about how to respond to the criticisms heaped upon the Met, the main trade unions - the Police Federation and the Police Superintendents Association - have condemned the inquiry as partial and unfair.

Nor are police the sole combatants in this battle for hearts and minds, as was illustrated by events following *The Independent's* recent revelation that the Lawrence's solicitor, Imran Khan, and barrister Michael Mansfield, will be censured by the inquiry for their role in the private prosecution of the murder suspects. On the day the article appeared, Mr Khan let it be known that the family had uncovered yet another potential scandal, namely that the detective in charge of the Lawrence murder squad, Superintendent Albert Patrick, was being investigated in relation to alleged corruption elsewhere in the force.

One effect of this disclosure was

to take the heat off the two lawyers - although Scotland Yard then produced a trump card, announcing at a hastily arranged press conference that John Grieve, the highly respected head of its racial crimes unit, would be taking over from Mr Patrick.

Even the reviled suspects - Neil and Jamie Acourt, David Norris, Gary Dobson and Luke Knight - are jostling to have their say. Their parents have written to the makers of a television documentary, insisting that their boys are innocent.

But of all the players, it is Condon who is the spotlight, and it is he who has most reason to sweat. He has staked his reputation, and his job, on the inquiry's outcome, pledging to resign if he is personally criticised. In an interview last week, however, he made it clear that he is not prepared to fall on his truncheon. "I should have the courage to see through the reforms that will no doubt come out of the inquiry," he told the interviewer, who observed that "there's a near missionary zeal about Sir Paul as he outlines the work he would like to do in 1999".

Other articles have reflected the arguments that Condon advances in private to rebut criticism of his officers. As an example of the supposedly shabby way that witnesses were treated at the inquiry, for instance, he cites the grilling of an off-duty constable, James Geddis, who stopped to help Stephen. However, he was bound by the same professional standards as his colleagues on duty. And, as he admitted, he did not administer first aid to Stephen, or even examine him to locate his wound.

Sir Paul Condon leaving the Lawrence inquiry last summer

The notion that police gave evidence in a public atmosphere - interrogated by McCarthyite lawyers, abused by spectators - is being propagated throughout the Met and repeated by commentators who never set foot in the inquiry chamber in south London. It is a complaint first made last month, although the hearings ended in July, and it is an absurd distortion of what went on.

Yes, there was tough questioning of the Lawrence's lawyers, but that was their job. This was a public inquiry into why police failed to catch a gang of racist killers, and many of the important answers surfaced in cross-examination. Yes, the atmosphere was tense at times, but spectators often laughed and heckled, so surreal was some of the evidence. Was testifying at the inquiry really more intimidating for police than patrolling the rougher streets of London?

Sir Paul appears to think so.

What exercises him more than anything else, though, is the prospect that the inquiry report will accuse his force of institutional racism - those two words that stuck in his gullet when he gave evidence to the inquiry himself.

In the current flurry of articles, friendly newspapers have gone out of their way to ridicule that charge. Jack Straw, though, has made it plain that he wants the inquiry to be a springboard for root-and-branch reform of the police. The Home Secretary has even asked Sir William to come up with a new definition of that prickly term, institutional racism.

Sir Paul would do better to acknowledge the gaping wounds exposed by the Lawrence case than to stalk around behind the scenes defending the indefensible. The inquiry was fairly conducted and, if the report reflects what it revealed, no amount of spinning now will make the slightest bit of difference.

## Britain has five political parties



PODIUM  
*PADDY ASHDOWN  
From a lecture to the Royal Society of Arts  
on proportional representation given by the leader of the Liberal Democrats*

BRITAIN IS now embarked upon what I have called a historic decade of reform and modernisation - and not just of the constitution: a period the like of which comes along to us rarely more than twice each century. In this project the Liberal Democrats and Labour are natural partners. And I hope that we will continue to be so - for there is much work to be done there.

The splits in the Conservative Party over Europe are deep and probably unbridgeable. The recent departure of two Conservative MEPs - though, in my view, premature - is nevertheless deeply significant.

But though Europe is the flashpoint, the divisions in the Conservative Party now reach far beyond this single issue. More than at any other point this century, the Conservative Party is now two parties - two parties at war with one another - who are held together not by common beliefs, but only by political expediency.

It is a loveless marriage, held together by the strait-jacket of First Past the Post. But slowly, as the strait-jacket

is loosened, the marriage is unravelling. The potential of Proportional Representation (PR) to jettison open cracks in our party monoliths is not limited to the Conservative Party. The Labour Party, too, though it hides it better, is irrevocably split. Not over Europe, this time, but over socialism. One part of the Labour Party believes in it. One part does not. And in the middle, a few tortured souls run around desperately trying to redefine it to cover the latest development.

There are today not three, but five political parties in British politics. Two Conservative Parties. Two Labour Parties too. And Old Labour are as far from influence and power as the Conservatives.

In the Labour Party, too, there are hints of what may be to come. The effective deselection of Old Labour MEPs, for which New Labour has opportunistically used this year's change in voting system as an excuse, but which would probably have happened anyway. The refusal to approve Dennis Canavan for the Scottish elections, for little more than being an old-style socialist. The set-

ting up of Arthur Scargill's Socialist Labour Party.

Under our current system a breakaway of the left is not impossible, and they could well be pushed into it, for Tony Blair would not miss them. But it could come about only from total desperation, for it would be doomed from the start.

Yet under PR there would be hope. In some parts of the country, 10 per cent of the vote

together without having to be in the same party. And where voters at election time can choose not just between two uncomfortable coalitions, but between each major strand of current political thought.

Can it really be right that when a voter goes to the polls they can make no distinction between whether they are supporting the Labour Party of Tony Blair or the Labour Party of Tony Benn? Or whether they are voting for the Conservative Party of Michael Howard or that of Michael Heseltine?

Maybe, in a time before mass media, people's ability to choose between their politicians was limited to a simple choice of A or B. But surely now we have gone beyond that?

Proportional Representation is the means by which parties, large and small, can have sensible and constructive relationships with other parties without being destroyed in the process. It would create a new dynamic, enabling small, independent parties to thrive, rather than drawing them into catch-all coalitions. Pluralism and diversity would be entrenched into our politics.

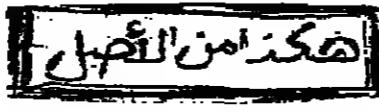
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Schools off key

The Independent 8 February 1999

# The lost world of suburbia



NATASHA WALTER

I know how it feels to long for a home that sits in a real place – in the city, full of energy, or the country

SO MANY miles of Britain are covered with them: ribbons of red-tiled, pebbledashed houses, the pale net curtains drawn tight inside their double-glazed windows, a Ford Mondeo parked in the paved-over front garden, with just a stained-glass tulip set into a window or a carriage light fixed to a wall to set one house off from another.

Most people in Britain live in suburbs, and we take for granted, as we drive from city to city or look out of the window on train journeys, that all our towns will be ringed around with those sprawling, endless mazes of closes and crescents and culs-de-sac, where families can get on with the business of living, very tidily, very quietly, remembering never to disturb the neighbours.

Now a report published by the Civic Trust, with a mouthful of a title – "Sustainable Renewal of Suburban Areas" – has accused us of dangerous complacency when it comes to the suburbs. Michael Gwilliam, director of the Civic Trust, said: "Most attention in the debate about urban renewal has been focused on inner cities. But the lack of debate about suburban areas is disturbing. Parts of them need early attention if they are to avoid becoming tomorrow's problems."

It's pretty hard to take this demand for the renewal of the suburbs at all seriously. A friend who works at one of the largest grant-giving organisations in Britain once described a meeting at which they heard an impassioned plea for more aid to relieve the desolation of urban poverty. Various asseverating noises were made, and then one colleague argued that they should not, however, ignore rural poverty. More asseverating noises, and then another colleague piped up. "So what's so good about the suburbs?" Laughter took over.

Why is it hard to believe that the suburbs need any attention? Well, how can we believe that peril is lurking in the suburbs when their very essence is the absence of danger? How can we possibly say that suburbs are on the edge, when they absolutely define the safe centre of England?

The suburbs are not tottering on the brink of decay, because the suburbs are, necessarily, the place



Two neighbours stop for a chat in Gants Hill – 'a lovely place 20 years ago but it's now gone downhill,' according to one resident

where the three-piece suite is constantly re-covered, the car is constantly washed, and new and more lurid varieties of clematis are spied every few yards. For many British writers, the suburbs have been more than risible, they have been the epitome of everything despicable in the British spirit. George Orwell takes the hero of his 1936 novel, *Coming up for Air*, back to the scenes of his authentically rural working-class boyhood, only to find that "the countryside had been buried by a kind of volcanic eruption from the suburbs... it was all houses, houses, little red cubes of houses all alike." His suburbs are terrifyingly invincible. More than 60 years later, why should we think anything has changed?

Suburbs are the places where authenticity goes missing, and suburban people aren't meant to have anything like real character, just – at most – genteel eccentricities. They can be lampooned in sitcoms, but they don't own any drama. Can you imagine *West Side Story* or *Wuthering Heights* rewritten for the English suburb? That lack of drama makes the suburbs stifling to those who grow up there. As a child, Nick Hornby would pretend at Arsenal matches that he hailed

Disaffected young suburbanites

from the dangerous city, when in fact he lived in Maidenhead. "Ever since I have been old enough to understand what it is to be suburban I have wanted to come from somewhere else," he wrote in *Feaver Pitch*, and thousands of readers have echoed his heartfelt cry.

Having spent long adolescent years in one of those generic suburban roads, lined with semi-detached pebble-dashed houses, which I would walk up and down, up and down, to get to the Tube station for the interminable journey into central London, I know how it feels to long for a home that sits in a real place – in the city, full of energy and noise, or in the country, full of smells and thorns. Anything, in fact, rather than that weirdly silent limbo, cut only by the rumble of the passing train and the chorus of lawnmowers starting up every Sunday morning. Everything that writers from George Orwell to Nick Hornby say about the suburbs makes sense when the nearest you get to urban life is the carpeted pub filled with couples in leisurewear, and the nearest you get to country life is the choked stream that runs tidily through the local park before disappearing under the road.

Disaffected young suburbanites

are hardly alone. As soon as we get out of the suburb we start the business of reinventing ourselves, calling Pinner "north London", or reclaiming our families' long-lost roots in Cumbria or Bembridge. It's extraordinary how many people you meet at work and university who seem to hail from either Sloane Square or Broadwater Farm – depending on what identity they choose to mask their suburban roots – but who in fact turn out to have come from Purley.

At some point in recent years most powerful commentators, from Richard Rogers to *Elle Decoration*,

have agreed that the day of the suburb was over. The ideal for the city now is laid out by Rogers in *Cities for a Small Planet*, in which he dismisses the residential suburb as a "single-minded space", as opposed to trendy, open-minded spaces such as city squares and pavement restaurants. We're all going to live in warehouse conversions and eat in riverside cafés, aren't we? So it's goodbye Magnolia Avenue and hello City Lofts.

That's the suburb for you – a place to be taken for granted, mocked and finally abandoned.

How bizarre, then, to be told suddenly that suburbs are an endan-

gered species – and to hear the suggestion that they would be worth preserving. Gants Hill in Redbridge is one of the suburbs that the Civic Trust's report picked out as in need of attention. And yesterday it was facing a chilly, grey afternoon with a wind that blew into your eyes and made them weep. The place looked like any of hundreds of British suburbs, with its tawdry and its cinema by the station, and then, leading off from that half-hearted centre, miles of lonely roads edged with crazy paving and almost-but-not-quite identical houses with timbered gables and glazed porches.

But in the muddy verdant park

there were boys in luminous sports-wear playing football, and families feeding the ducks on the ponds.

Some were eager to talk about the dangers pressing on their enclave.

One Asian girl, who declined to give her name, said she'd be out of Gants Hill as soon as she could.

"Bits of Redbridge are really rough now, you know? There are streets where you don't want to walk alone," she explained.

"It's a great neighbourhood, but it's declining," said talkative Les Hearn, out with his wife and grandson. "They've put these motorways and these red routes right through

the area, so no one can stop now.

That's fine if you want to get to Stansted Airport in a hurry, but it's no good to us that live here, is it? If you can't stop, you can't shop, so the shops die. And then no one wants to live here."

"It was lovely here 20 years ago, lots of very nice shops," says Madeleine Hearn. "Now it's gone downhill."

The Civic Trust's report notes that parts of Redbridge are now entering a spiral of decline, as their local centres lose out to shopping centres in Thurrock and Dartford and their residents become increasingly dependent on their cars to take them out of the area. The suburbs I talked to blamed the big supermarkets and road-builders for spoiling the place that had once made sense to them.

In other words, the suburbs want exactly the same things that the inner cities want: places to play, places to shop and roads that belong to people rather than cars. It will take a big turnaround in the thinking of local authorities and government to see that they get them. But if they don't, maybe the Civic Trust is right, and one day we shall be lamenting the lost heyday of the suburb.

## RIGHT OF REPLY

JOHN CARR



The Internet consultant and DTI adviser replies to a leading article on censoring the Web

YOUR COMMENT that "authoritarians and libertarians alike must agree that the whole issue of freedom on the Net needs to be examined immediately" is a little beside the point. Such an examination has been going on for some time. The problem is, it has been getting nowhere.

The Internet started as an essentially chaotic medium. As its technical infrastructure has developed and become better understood, so the possibilities of exercising greater control have emerged.

Yet the self-proclaimed libertarians have resisted every attempt to regulate the Internet, even where the primary purpose of the proposed regulation or control has been to deal with plainly illegal activity. Every battle has been fought as if democracy and civilisation depended entirely on preserving the *status quo*.

Regrettably, in the United States, where most decisions about the Internet are taken, the courts seem largely to be on the side of the so-called libertarians. I say "regrettably" because what I see being labelled "libertarianism" is no more than nihilistic licence, laced with poisonous cynicism about the intentions behind any governmental move to introduce reforms.

I am utterly uninterested in preventing consenting adults from doing or looking at whatever they like. However, I am extremely anxious that, whether by accident or as a result of youthful curiosity, children, my own included, should not be precipitated into parts of the adult world and aspects of the human psyche that are entirely inappropriate for them in their tender years.

We already have laws which, for good reasons, ban or control such material and activities in the real world. Are we to be denied the opportunity of doing the same in the virtual world?

# Turning a blind eye to genocide

READING THIS book produces an uncomfortable feeling of *déjà vu*. Notwithstanding the significant differences between the Nazi mass murder of Jews and the slaughter of civilians in Kosovo today, in both cases the world response has been little and late. The unpleasant truth is that knowledge of atrocities in war zones has never been a sufficient condition for remedial action by governments facing powerful counter-arguments based on realpolitik. Nor is the punishment of the criminals responsible or the heads of state who preside over torturers and killers carried out with much more determination now than in the case of the Nazis.

It may be that this failure of nerve, despite the incantation since 1945 of "Never Again", has fuelled the controversy addressed by Richard Breitman's latest book. Breitman argues that the British and American wartime leadership knew about the Holocaust earlier than has previously been thought, and that there is scant

excuse for their poor record of action to save imperilled Jews. Certainly, it is easier to beat our breasts about the inadequacies of policy 50 years ago, when discussions of appropriate action are merely academic, than to acknowledge the same lapses today.

But do the parallels that will be drawn from Breitman's work hold good? Much of his argument rests on recently declassified decrypts of radio traffic between Berlin police headquarters and German militarised police units engaged in the massacre of Russian Jews. This traffic was intercepted at Bletchley Park, decoded and passed on to intelligence analysts for use by the highest military and political echelons in Britain.

However, Breitman is on shaky ground when he claims that the decrypts from summer 1941 gave Allied leaders an insight into what historians now call the Holocaust.

New research by young German historians suggests that from September 1939 onwards, homicidal policies were initiated against the Jews and other "racial undesirables" at different levels of the German administration, at different times, and for a variety of reasons – although all were underpinned by the deadly racial-biological assumptions of the Nazi state. None of these initiatives was conceivable without Hitler's inspiration or ultimate consent, but the centre itself initiated limited slaughter before it launched a global plan for genocide, into which all other murderous practices were integrated.

MONDAY BOOK

OFFICIAL SECRETS: WHAT THE NAZIS PLANNED, WHAT THE BRITISH AND AMERICANS KNEW  
BY RICHARD BREITMAN.  
ALLEN LANE/THREE PENGUIN PRESS, £20

Breitman maintains, controversially, that Hitler's decision to kill Europe's Jews came well before the invasion of Russia. As if to cover all eventualities, he blurs the mass murder of Jews in the USSR in mid-1941 into the "Final Solution" of mid-1942. Arguably, what British analysts read in summer 1941 indicated a wave of massacres perpetrated against Russia's Jews – appalling enough, but circumscribed. If historians today, with access to all the documents, cannot agree on the timing of Hitler's decision to embark on genocide, how can we impugn wartime leaders for their "failure" to warn Jews or act prevent it?

By contrast, there is no escaping the deliberate withholding of Enigma decrypts that confirmed reports of systematic killings throughout Europe allowed sceptical officials and ministers to delay action, with terrible consequences. Breitman dramatically reveals that by May 1943 intelligence decrypts and Polish underground sources had proved that Auschwitz-Birkenau had become a vast killing-site that had already consumed 60,000 lives. This shocking discovery underlines the incomprehensibility of the Allies' failure in 1944 to use air power against the camp.

Breitman, a tenacious researcher who translates a mass of complex documents into a highly readable narrative, throws important light on the role of the "Order Police" and their savoury commanders, from Kurt



Auschwitz concentration camp

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## MONDAY POEM

AT MOONRISE  
BY ROBERT WELLS

Youth's good was its own body  
Which did not fail.  
At moonrise I would dive naked  
Into the pool.

Splinter the beams, surface.  
Watch them regather.  
Self-knowledge was no more  
Than the touch of water.

Our poems today and tomorrow  
come from Robert Wells's  
new collection, *Lusus*  
(Carcanet, £6.95)

Daluge downwards. Daluge was executed by the Czechs for the obliteration of Lidice, but escaped opprobrium for the massacre of Jews, in which his men played a role that historians have so far underrated. Most of them got away with it. Their ability to evade retribution rested partly on Britain's scandalous decision not to supply decrytpted information for use in war crimes trials.

Breitman attributes this despicable concealment to a continuity of official attitudes towards the Jews: their murder did not bother British policy makers that much, so nor did the punishment of those responsible. Yet he discloses that during the war Britain, astoundingly, did give the Soviet Union material based on decrypts. Why, then, did the USSR not prosecute the killers?

DAVID CESARANI

The reviewer, who is professor of modern Jewish history at Southampton University and director of the Wiener Library, recently published *Arthur Koestler: the homeless mind* (Hermes)

# King Hussein of Jordan

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WHEN KING Hussein ascended the throne of Jordan on 12 August 1952, at the age of 16, he was a youth of great promise in a position of great peril. His father, King Talal, had abdicated on the grounds of "nervous instability", and left for Turkey. His beloved grandfather King Abdullah had been assassinated, before Hussein's own eyes, in Jerusalem on 20 July 1951. But for a medal which stopped one of the assassin's bullets, Hussein himself might have been killed. Yet, while other Arab rulers suffered assassination or ignominy, for over 40 years King Hussein made Jordan a bastion of sanity and stability in the Middle East.

Hussein's upbringing was far from opulent. He claimed that he once had to sew up a torn blouse "because I knew my parents could not possibly afford to buy me another". Hussein went to six schools in Amman, before the English-run Victoria College in Alexandria, and Harrow in England - where he found protocol considerably stricter than in the palace in Amman. While never close to his father, in the early years of his reign he was strongly influenced by his conservative and monarchical mother, Queen Zein, called by one British ambassador "the Metternich of the Middle East".

For six months after his accession, the king attended the military academy at Sandhurst. According to his company commander, Major-General David Horsfield, "Officer Cadet King Hussein" was "by no means a leading academic. But he was a jolly good cadet, a good team player... developing in silence." The king enjoyed Sandhurst: soldiering remained a lifelong passion.

His principal problem was enshrined in a phrase of his inauguration speech: "Jordan acknowledges the brotherhood which links together all the peoples of the great Arab nation." Jordan was over 60 per cent Palestinian in population, and was surrounded by rich and powerful Arab neighbours, Egypt, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia, as well as by the Palestinians' mortal enemy, Israel. It owed its existence not to history or geography, but to the Emir Abdullah's invasion of southern Syria in 1920, from the family fief of Hejaz in what is now Saudi Arabia, and his annexation of portions of Palestine in 1948. Beset by the forces of Palestinian nationalism, Nasserism and Islamic fundamentalism, this Islamic state seemed doomed to disappear.

Moreover, since King Hussein's dynasty the Hashemites had started the Arab revolt in 1916, their reliance on British troops and money, and readiness to negotiate with Zionists, had diminished their prestige in the Middle East. They regarded themselves as the senior descendants of the Prophet Mohamed, "the oldest reigning dynasty in the world", and natural leaders of a movement for Arab unity. Yet many Arabs regarded, and regard, them as traitors. King Abdullah had been assassinated by a Palestinian nationalist; and King Hussein's own reign would be punctuated by so many conspiracies and

murder attempts that, he wrote, "sometimes I feel like the central character in a detective novel".

In 1957 his Chief of Staff General Maan Abu Nuwar, "a young energetic helper in whom I had reposed my trust", tried to launch a coup. With characteristic courage and panache, the king drove to the rebellious regiments, spoke to them himself, despite what he called "bullets flying about", and regained their loyalty. In 1958 Syrian MIGs tried to force his plane to land in Syria, and there was a plot by another chief of staff in 1959. During the 1967 war with Israel, an Israeli bomb which landed in his study in Basman Palace might have killed him.

Israel was not the king's worst enemy. He joined the 1967 war partly in order to appease Jordanian public opinion, partly because Nasser had deceived him about Egypt's military performance. In 1968-70, with the support of many Jordanians and most of the Arab world, the Palestine Liberation Organisation established a cordon of mini-states in Jordan. PLO soldiers killed one of the king's cousins and the US Assistant Military Attaché, and shot at the king himself. The survival of the regime was, yet again, in doubt; the king admitted that "the people in the armed forces began to lose confidence in me" - until he chose to fight.

### Hussein's background - he went to Harrow and Sandhurst - made him one of the few Arab politicians who handled Western governments, and media, effectively

In one week, 17-25 September 1970 - "Black September" to the PLO - the PLO was defeated despite support from Syria and Iraq, which had forces in the country. The king supervised operations from his country house in Hummar outside Amman, relieving tension by making "ham" radio broadcasts around the world from a personal transmitter. The PLO subsequently declared that the liberation of Jordan from the "puppet royal regime" was as important as the liberation of Palestine itself.

His enemies attributed King Hussein's survival to Western backing. His background made him one of the few Arab politicians who handled Western governments, and media, effectively. In 1958, after the murder of his cousin and friend King Faisal II of Iraq, and most of the royal family, when many Jordanian officials openly expressed Nasserite and anti-Hashemite views, and the king himself suffered from "listlessness",

isolated, in constant danger with few close friends, the king did not always find personal happiness. After the rapid break-up of his first marriage to a Cambridge-educated Egyptian cousin, Sherina Dina, he knew loneliness. With his second wife, Toni Gardner, daughter of a British officer working in Jordan, he lived in a modest house outside Amman, cooking breakfast "every other morning". He was also happy with her more sophisticated Palestinian successor, Alia Touqan. After Queen Alia's death in a plane crash, he married an Arab-American, Lisa Halaby (Queen Noor), tall, blonde and beautiful, who converted to Islam and became a patron of Arab culture and international charities.

In 1965 it had been a characteristically shrewd decision to appoint as Crown Prince his brother Hassan, and regard, them as traitors. King Abdullah had been assassinated by a Palestinian nationalist; and King Hussein's own reign would be punctuated by so many conspiracies and

British troops had returned to Jordan for several months to protect the monarchy. Israel repeatedly threatened to intervene if King Hussein was overthrown, and Hussein had many "secret" interviews with Israeli leaders in his search for peace. Until 1990 he received Western and Saudi (and until 1973 Iranian - the king often holidayed with the Shah) financial aid: without which his impoverished country could not have survived.

However, Hussein's own personality was also a source of strength.



Hussein at Harrow. He found the protocol at the school stricter than in Amman. *Hulton Getty*

rather than one of his half-English sons. Crown Prince Hassan, who acted as Regent when the king was abroad, was as important as the king's wives in maintaining his inner strength. Rarely in the history of monarchy has a king and his brother worked so harmoniously together. The crown prince, who had been educated at Oxford, was an intellectual who spoke Turkish, French and Hebrew. Of the king's sons the good-looking, half-British Abdullah, head of the Jordanian army's command unit, was considered the most intelligent, and inherited his father's charm. Queen Noor's son Hamza was said to be his father's favourite.

King Hussein had long presented himself as a Palestinian leader. Only with great reluctance did he accept the PLO's claim to represent the Palestinians in 1974. On 19 February 1986, infuriated by Yasser Arafat's refusal to recognise Israel, he suspended relations with the PLO leadership "until such time as their word becomes their bond, characterised by commitment, credibility and constancy". Yet the king, called by some of his subjects "the Day to Day King", was himself no stranger to impetuous changes of policy, which owed more to instinct than judgement. In 1988 he began to dismantle Jordan's remaining legal and administrative links with the West Bank - thereby strengthening the PLO's control over the Palestinians.

Originally content to live in a simple house outside Amman, with a age Husseini developed a taste for luxury, building palaces in and around Amman and Aqaba and buying houses in Washington, Ascot and Switzerland: he sold his London house to pay for the regilding of the mosque of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem. The king was no readier; his hobbies included horses, collecting old cars and flying aeroplanes (even on international flights he was generally his own pilot). He was also a "snacker" and "pizza freak" for whom falafel, pizza and chicken fingers had to be available at all times.

Money, as well as hostility to Syria, may have been at the root of his improbable friendship with President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. Throughout the 1990s Jordan acted as a middle man for Iraqi purchases of arms and technology. Some implied that the king directly benefited.

He took Queen Noor to stay with the dictator, and described himself as "very close to Saddam Hussein", although "unable to influence him and to change the course of events".

In the summer of 1990, after Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, King Hussein's assumption of the title "Sharif", like his great-grandfather Sharif Hussein of Mecca, was seen as a sign of a revival of the family claim to the Hejaz. His support for Saddam Hussein during the Gulf

War of 1991 made the king more popular in the streets of Amman than at any time since the dismissal of Glubb Pasha. When his left kidney was removed at the Mayo Clinic in 1992, on account of cancer in the urinary tract, some of his subjects offered to donate their own kidney to replace their king's. Yet, as a direct result of Saddam's war, over 300,000 Palestinians left the Gulf for Jordan; the economy could not absorb them and, by failing to oppose Saddam even verbally, the king gained the enmity of Saudi Arabia, long Jordan's financial mainstay. When they met, Saudi princes refused to embrace the King of Jordan.

In 1995, as peace with Israel appeared to solidify, the Jordanian economy revived. Amman became a centre of trade with Israel. Soon, however, popular hostility to Israel seemed stronger than ever; and there were bread riots in Kerak, south of Jordan. Once "very close" to Saddam Hussein, the king took the initiative in welcoming members of the dictator's family who fled to Amman. In 1998 the king's battle with cancer of the lymphatic tissue, and months of chemotherapy at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, inspired panic among some of his subjects. A spectral figure, bald and frail, he was the most impressive leader at yet another round of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, at Wye Plantation in the United States in October 1998.

In January 1999, however, many Jordanians were shocked when the king, who had spent much of his recent painful cancer treatment alone with Queen Noor, on a brief visit to Amman suddenly issued a royal decree, changing the succession away from Crown Prince Hassan, the experienced statesman who had held the post for 33 years, in favour of his eldest son, Prince Abdullah. For the first time the king criticised his brother's conduct of the government, in particular the army, in his absence, in a bitter letter which also alleged that Queen Noor and Prince Hamza had been subjected to "whispering, innuendo and a smear campaign". Prince Abdullah was sworn in as Regent on the remains of Queen Alia International Airport, just before the king flew back to America for his last days of cancer treatment.

In a brave speech of 13 October 1991 the king, not for the first time, had described himself as tired and thinking of abdication, and urged his subjects to "bury senseless illusions", "face reality" and accept peace with Israel. It was his greatest claim to respect that he had long been the Arab ruler with fewest illusions.

**PHILIP MANSEL**

**Hussein bin Talal: born Amman 11 November 1935; King of Jordan 1952-95; married 1955 Sherif Dina Abdul Hamid (one daughter; marriage dissolved 1957), 1961 Toni Gardner (Princess Muna; two sons, two daughters; marriage dissolved 1972), 1972 Alia Touqan (Queen Alia, died 1977; one son, one daughter; and one adopted daughter), 1978 Lisa Halaby (Queen Noor; two sons, two daughters); died Amman 7 February 1999.**

## Lili St Cyr

**A STRIPEASE** performer noted for her on-stage bubble baths, Lili St Cyr was allegedly a role model for the young Marilyn Monroe.

Blonde and buxom, she became a favourite of Howard Hughes, acted in several films and ran a mail-order business in lingerie. She was also immortalised in a Rodgers and Hart song when, in their show *Pal Joey*, they wrote a specialty number for a reporter who recounts an interview with the most famous stripper of all, Gypsy Rose Lee. In which Lee, noted for her intellectual pretensions, told the reporter while unzipping her garments ("Zip... I was reading Schopenhauer last night - Zip... and I think that Schopenhauer was right"), concluding the song with the couplet, "Zip... my artistic taste is classic and dear - Zip... who the heil is Lili St Cyr?"

Lili St Cyr was actually Willis Marie Van Schaack, born in Minneapolis in 1918. She adopted a patronymic of the French aristocracy when first booked as a nude performer in Las Vegas, having studied ballet and worked as a chorus girl. She established her reputation as an ecclesiast with a long tenure at the Gaiety Burlesque house in Montreal. As the *Montreal Gazette* was to recall in 1996 when the theatre reopened, "That midwinter night in 1944 was the beginning of Lili St Cyr's seven-year reign as Montreal's most famous woman, the city *femme fatale*, a person whose name invoked sophistication, mystery, sin and - for many males - instant arousal."

Among the innovations she brought to her act was a variation in precedence, emerging on stage in minimal attire then putting her

**Marilyn Monroe patterned herself on her - her way of dressing, of talking, her whole persona. It was from Lili St Cyr that she learned how to become a sex goddess'**



stepped into a bubble bath, splashed around a little, then emerged, more or less dressed. As a newspaper account of the time put it, "The defence rested, as did everyone else." St Cyr proceeded to demonstrate.

In 1955 Howard Hughes cast her in the RKO film *Son of Sinbad*, described by one critic as "a voyeur's delight" in which St Cyr had a co-starring role as a principal member of a Baghdad harem populated with over a hundred nubile starlets. The film was condemned by the Catholic Legion of Decency.

She also had roles in *The Miami Story* (1954) and *I, Mobster* (1958), but her best role was in Raoul Walsh's *The Naked and the Dead* (1958), another RKO production, in which St Cyr was Jersey Lili, stripper in a Honolulu night-club and girlfriend of a farmboy soldier (G. Q. Jones) who proudly boasts to his buddies that he has her picture

painted inside his groundsheet. Alas, heavy cutting of St Cyr's night-club routine by censors caused some choppy editing in an otherwise nicely crafted film.

Ted Jordan, who managed St Cyr's career in the Fifties and became the fifth of several husbands, revealed in his book *Norma Jeane: my secret life with Marilyn Monroe* (1989) that Monroe mimicked St Cyr. Liza Dawson, editor for William Morrow who published the book, told *Newsday* in 1989, "Marilyn very much patterned herself on Lili St Cyr - her way of dressing, of talking, her whole persona. Norma Jeane was a mousy, brown-haired girl with a high squeaky voice, and it was from Lili St Cyr that she learned how to become a sex goddess."

St Cyr continued to do her act until well into her fifties, after which she ran a lingerie mail-order firm in Los Angeles, marketing "Scanti-Panties" advertised as "perfect for street wear stage or photography".

"She was an extraordinarily glamorous woman with a very, very beautiful body," recalled the music critic of the *Montreal Herald*. "She had this wonderful haughtiness. After she'd taken a few things off, she'd half cover herself with the curtain and say, 'That's it, boys. You're not gettin' any more from me.' St Cyr herself said, 'If one has morals, they can't be taken away by me or anyone else.'

**TOM VALLANCE**

**Willis Marie Van Schaack (Lili St Cyr), striptease artist; born Minneapolis, Minnesota 3 June 1918; married; died Los Angeles 29 January 1999.**

## Dorothy Middleton

**IN THE** mid-1950s Dorothy Middleton was introduced by the publisher John Murray to some letters written by the 19th-century globetrotter Isabella Bird. Out of them grew Middleton's passionate interest in women travellers. The result was the book *Victorian Lady Travellers* (1965), a series of supplementary articles, related contributions for the *New Dictionary of National Biography* and a large number of lectures to audiences in Britain.

In 1958, jointly with A.A. Thomson she published *Lugard in Africa* and her authoritative standing in Africa was reflected in the chapter on "Exploration in Africa" in the Royal Geographical Society's *History of World Exploration* (1991). She also edited a centenary reprint of Sir Francis Galton's *The Art of Travel* (1971). Her "well-qualified ladies", as they became known, naturally led her to the Royal Geographical Society, where she became a Fellow on the nomination of her brother the politician R.A. Butler. The association with the RGS marked a change in the course of her life.

She retained a strong affection for India, the land of her upbringing. During the war years, she worked in the Central Office of Information. In 1938 she married Lawrence Middleton, senior partner in a family firm of solicitors. At their hospitable home in Sidney Street, Chelsea, Dorothy welcomed many "adopted" as well as actual nephews and nieces.

Dorothy Middleton had a deep concern for the traditions of the RGS and its valuable collections. When she spoke at committee meetings, it was evident that members were going to benefit from her common sense and wisdom. As with Mary Kingsley (perhaps her favourite among the lady travellers), "her judgements were always informed": her opinions, "her own and little influenced by current fashion". Her enthusiasm was infectious and she added a sparkle to any function that she attended.

She also had a great sense of fun. It pleased her to unearth a piece of doggerel from *Punch* when admission to admit women to the Fellowship of the society was being debated in 1893.

**A lady an explorer? A traveller in skirts? The notion's just a trifl too seraphic: Let them stay and mind the bodies, or hem our ragged shirts. But they mustn't, can't and shan't be geographic.**

The Victorian lady travellers achieved their objective. How they would have relished the way in which, through giving new life to their adventures, Dorothy Middleton found herself a greatly admired senior officer of a society which sought to deny their entry.

**W. R. MEAD**

**Dorothy Butler, writer; born Lahore, India 9 November 1909; married 1938 Lawrence Middleton (died 1983); died London 3 February 1998.**



A traveller in skirts?

## Colin Purbrook

THE ONE thing that surprises most American jazz giants more than any other when they visit this country is the fact that the British pianists who accompany them are every bit as good as their own. The first to stimulate the need for rethinking was Gerry Moore in the Thirties, and the line extended with Marian McParland, George Shearing, Alan Clare, Fred Hunt and, to this day, Brian Lemon. Colin Purbrook was among the finest of them.

Last Tuesday his ex-wife, Maureen, visited him at the St Mary's Hospice in Hampstead and explained to a consultant there that Purbrook was one of the 10 best jazz pianists in the country. Later she told him what she had said. Purbrook, by now barely able to speak, croaked "Five, dear. Five."

"The Grand Vizier of parties was Colin Purbrook, one of the world's best pianists," wrote the clarinetist Sandy Brown. "He has what used to be called 'piano touch', which means that a skillful player can make the notes ring longer than most by holding on to some of them while laying others down: no pedals. Colin is the master of that." Brown was a uniquely gifted writer who didn't live to complete his autobiography. But he left some vivid pictures, like bizarre cave paintings, of his years as a travelling jazz musician:

At any time during the Fifties and Sixties, 100 jazz musicians would be living in West Hampstead, at least 50 of them at 4 Fawley Road, or Bleak House, as it came to be known. The overriding influences on the choice of the address, so important as to dismiss all other considerations, were being near town and the road north.

Purbrook lived there, along with Tony Coe and Brian Lemon, both of who also worked in Brown's band.

Conditions had achieved squalor of a sur-realism it would have been hard to invent. Through the cracks and snap of breaking glass, the splintered door panels and endless regeneration of overindulged stomachs (tinging a rainbow). Tony Coe would fit faulatively through Barak's door. Jimmy Deuchar would write down musical figures to show what brass arranging was all about.

Purbrook's parties were always in honour of some famous guest, who, typical of the formula that made the parties invariably disastrous, never turned up. Coleman Hawkins and Stan Getz were amongst them. Judy Garland was invited to one and it's not certain whether she arrived, but certainly Purbrook had impressed her enough when he accompanied her on the piano to make her want to.

Most of the incumbents slept on mattresses on the floor. The kitchen sink was unique. Dirty dishes lived in its pond for months, with the top ones being washed as needed. Tony Coe, writing a score, managed to spill a full bottle of ink into it, and after that it was impossible to see below the surface. It came to seem "that an ever greater evil lurked there. You could get your hand bitten off looking for a plate."

His father was a professional pianist and Purbrook began taking piano lessons when he was six. He won three Challenge Cups at the Brighton Music Festival of 1947 and went on to read music at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. He played trombone with the Cambridge University Jazz Band in the 1958 Rank film *Bachelor of Hearts*. Leaving Cambridge in 1957 he first joined Sandy Brown's quintet on double bass, working with it for a six-month season at the 100 Club in Oxford Street. He played piano in the Sandy Brown-Al Fairweather All Stars, staying for three years whilst also working with other bands. One of these was Kenny Ball's, where Purbrook played trumpet, piano and bass.

But his interests lay in modern jazz, and work in the band on the *Queen Mary* gave him a chance to hear many of his idols in New York. Leaving "the boats" he played mainly with the Allan Ganley-Ronnie Ross Jazzmakers and



David Sinclair

touring in Germany with the band led by trumpeter Bert Courtley in 1961. He joined Charlie Mingus, Dave Brubeck, Tubby Hayes and other musicians in another Rank film, *All Night Long* (1961).

After more touring with Kenny Baker and Tubby Hayes, Purbrook returned to "the boats" for Black Sea and Mediterranean cruises with a quintet that he led with Tony Coe. Next he joined Dudley Moore's Trio on bass, and continued the association by leading the trio on piano for the *Beyond the Fringe* stage show that starred Moore and Peter Cook.

Purbrook's trio played on the first 16 broadcasts of BBC Television's *Late Night Extra* and worked regularly on the *Tonight* programme. He was on piano for BBC 2's jazz series 625 with Dakota Staton and the Keith Christie All Stars respectively and was a member of

Sixties and when the Ronnie Scott Club opened often worked there as pianist.

He chose, whenever he could, to play with the drummer Phil Seamen, whose work he particularly admired, and he joined Seamen's Trio during the Seventies. Humphrey Lyttelton, always seeking the stimulation to his music provided by fresh thinking players, brought him into the Lyttelton band in 1972 (he had worked occasionally with the band during 1968), and there he stayed three years.

Purbrook was both musical director and arranger for the 1966 Arts Theatre production of *The Three Musketeers*. He was to remain in demand for this role for the next 20 years, spending a year and a half as musical director of *Bubbling Brown Sugar* in the West End during the Seventies before touring with the show for three months in Holland. He was musical director of *Beecham* at the

Harry Edison, Plas Johnson, Doc Cheatham, Harold Ashby, Dusk Goykovich, Ken Peplowski, Bobby Shew, Bill Berry, Eddie "Lockjaw" Davis, Herb Ellis, Barney Kessel and many others.

In 1990 he became resident solo pianist at L'Escargot Restaurant in Soho, London, and more recently had the same role at Kettner's.

During the Nineties he continued to tour and appear on radio and television and, despite the fact that he began to suffer from rheumatoid arthritis in 1995, worked at the same unrelenting pace as before. He was able to do this because of the unique skills of his consultant at the Central Middlesex Hospital, Dr Bernard Colacchio, a jazz pianist who often went to Purbrook at the Pizza Express.

Despite major surgery and chemotherapy for cancer developed in late 1997, he remained able to play until the end of last year. A CD called *My Ideal* that he recorded in 1997 with his bassist, Andy Cleary and guitarist Colin Oxley, confirms the opinion of many of his fans that he was playing better than ever before.

Purbrook was never short of work and was featured at the Ealing Jazz Festival and at the Brecon Jazz Festival, both in August last year. His last job was at the Pizza Express on 28 December, when he accompanied the American tenor player Scott Hamilton.

The most notable thing about him," said Humphrey Lyttelton, "and the reason that any musician would like to play with him, was primarily his touch on the piano. It was the most beautiful touch, light as air; and his solos floated. But apart from that, his interjecting of chords or harmony into other people's solos, would make most of those musicians say that he was the best accompanist in the business."

STEVE VOCE

*Colin Thomas Purbrook, pianist, bassist, composer, arranger and band-leader; born Seaford, Sussex 26 February 1936; married 1974 Maureen Young (one son; marriage dissolved 1983); died London 5 February 1999.*

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### BIRTHS

MAUGHAN: On 2 February 1999, to Jamie and Prue, a son, Angus William Sanderson, a brother for a delighted Ned and Katie.

#### DEATHS

MORTON: Charles William Hearne, suddenly on 5 February, aged 73. Much-loved husband of Ann, father of Thomas, Guy, Jonathan and Crispin and devoted grandfather. Family funeral at St Helen's Church, Brantwood, on Tuesday 11 February at 11am. Memorial service in Southwell Minster on Tuesday 2 March at 1pm. Donations if wished to the British Heart Foundation.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (shorter: Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Weddings, funerals, in memoriam) cost 11.50 a line (VAT extra).

#### BIRTHDAYS

Professor Averil Cameron, 81; Sir Richard Southern, former President, St John's College, Oxford, 87; The Rev Dr John Tudor, Development Officer, Harris Manchester College, Oxford, 68; Mr John Williams, composer and conductor, 67.

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Robert Burton, writer and scholar, 1577; Giovanni Francesco Barbieri (il Guercino), painter, 1591; John Ruskin, writer, artist and art critic, 1819; Jules Verne, novelist, 1828; Martin Buber, philosopher, 1878; Dame Edith Mary Evans, actress, 1888; King Wallis, Viceroy, film director, 1894; Tunku Abdul Rahman, first prime minister of Malaysia, 1903; Chester Floyd Carlson, inventor of Xerox copying, 1906; Lana Turner (Julia Jean Mildred Frances Turner), actress, 1920; James Dr June Paterson-Brown.

former Chief Commissioner, Girl Guides, 1877; Lord Rayne, chairman, London Merchant Securities, 81; Sir Richard Southern, former President, St John's College, Oxford, 87; The Rev Dr John Tudor, Development Officer, Harris Manchester College, Oxford, 68; Mr John Williams, composer and conductor, 67.

Deaths: Mary, Queen of Scots, beheaded 1587; Peter the Great, Tsar of Russia, 1725; Robert Michael Ballantine, author of books for boys, 1894; Prince Peter Alekseyevich Kropotkin, anarchist and geographer, 1912; William Bateson, biologist and geneticist, 1926; John Langstraw Austin, philosopher, 1960; Sir Victor Gollancz, publisher and writer, 1967.

Dean (James Byroo), actor, 1931.

Deaths: Mary, Queen of

#### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal, Patron, the Basic Skills Agency, attends the British Council International Reception at the Strand Palace Hotel, London WC2.

#### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am: 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Irish Guards.

#### LECTURES

Royal Academy (at the Society of Antiquaries, London W1): Professor John House, "Perspectives on Monet: impressions of London", 1pm.

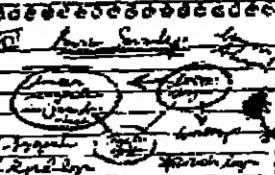
THOSE OF us who sit through the credits are invariably rewarded not only with details of who sang what but also with names that no scriptwriter would dare invent – or produce allow above the title. Somebody with a hand in the sprightly *Antz* has the killer surname Posthumus and the dismal *Sex and the*

#### WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE  
winsome, adj.

City at least yields the name Winsome.

... "You win some..." It derives from the Old English for joy, and sum meant productive of. The word is overlooked by Johnson – it underwent a hiatus between the Middle Ages and the 18th century, when it returned, with the current meaning of pleasant on the eye, via northern dialect. Quite a chat-up line.



### PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC NOTES

PAUL GORDON

## Ethical chaos in the consulting room

IN THE world of psychotherapy and counselling, the word "ethics" is usually used in a very narrow sense to mean, basically, that therapists and counsellors should not take advantage of their patients or clients – be that sexually, emotionally and financially.

This is, of course, important and all therapists and counsellors are required to abide by certain agreed ethical codes. There is, however, a more important sense in which psychotherapy is, or at least ought to be, an ethical undertaking.

The French-Jewish philosopher Emmanuel Levinas, who lived from 1906 to 1995 argued that ethics was something far deeper and more complex than just a set of simple (or even complicated) rules about how to behave.

For him, ethics was ultimately a question of my responsibility for the other and his point was that this responsibility precludes knowledge of that other. It is something thrust upon me as a human being. Indeed, responsibility is what constitutes me as a human subject.

To use a word which Levinas was fond of, responsibility makes me hostage to the other. I do not need to know someone, in other words, in order to be responsible to them.

For Levinas, the most important philosophical question is not "To be or not to be". It is, rather, how being justified.

or presumed knowledge) is questionable. This is particularly relevant to psychotherapists' theories about personality and mental suffering.

There is a place for these when they are offered as possible stories which might be helpful to individuals trying to come to terms with their situation. But, when they are held out as supposed truths about the human condition, we are on dangerous ground. The danger then is that adherence to a theoretical position or way of understanding gets in the way, not only of seeing what is before us, someone unique, utterly different, but also of being with them. It reduces people to types, to categories. Too often, such presumed knowledge is a flight from the difficulties of uncertainty and not knowing.

It is understandable that doctors, when faced with the chaos, confusion, disorder and disease that we see in our consulting rooms, should reach for the theories which seem to make sense of it all. And yet, all too often, this is a certain violence against the patient and their own uniqueness. This can be an obstacle in the way of a genuine meeting which is what, in some way, those coming to therapy are seeking.

Paul Gordon is author of *Face to Face: therapy as ethics* (Constable, £15.99).

### CASE SUMMARIES

8 FEBRUARY 1999

Robert Reid QC, Christopher Storer (Tunleys) for the defendant.

#### County court

Kennings and anor v Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council: CA (Evans LJ, Wilson J) 23 Jan 1999.

THE NOTES to Ord 21, r 2(1) of

the County Court Rules indicated that if a plaintiff applied to be non-suited up until such time as "the facts had been found" the court had no discretion to refuse his application and give judgment for the defendant.

EXAMINING JUSTICES had the power to commit an accused for trial to the Crown Court under the procedure laid down by s 6(2) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 where the defendant was absent due to health but was represented by a solicitor, unless there were good reasons not to do so, since s 4(4) specifically provided that examining justices might allow evidence to be given before them in those circumstances.

Michael Scholes (Maitlands, Liverpool) for the applicant: neither the magistrate nor the prosecution appeared.

The plaintiff appeared in person:

Adrian Keeling (Solicitor to Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council) for the defendant.

#### Sport

Korda v ITF Ltd (t/a the International Tennis Federation): CA (Lightman J) 23 Jan 1999.

ON THEIR true construction the words "any dispute arising out of any decision" of the Tennis Anti-Doping Programme extended only to disputes as to the validity, enforceability or construction of the decision and did not authorise an appeal by rehearing on the merits.

Accordingly the ITF was not entitled under s (V)3 to appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Switzerland against a decision of its appeals committee.

Simon Wilshire (Registrar of the Court of Appeal) for the appellant; Marcus Thompson (CPS) for the Crown.

#### WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE  
winsome, adj.

City at least yields the name Winsome.

Dotless, to her own case, doubtless a date has ended with one or other thinking,

# Warning: do not forget to read this column

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I CAME across something in our bathroom the other day which has occupied my thoughts off and on since. It was a little dispenser of dental floss.

It isn't the floss itself that is of interest to me, but the container has a freephone number painted on it. You can call the company's Floss Hotline 24 hours a day. But why would you need to? I keep imagining some guy calling up and saying in an anxious voice: "OK, I've got the floss. Now what?" As a rule of thumb, I would submit that if you need to call a floss provider you are probably not ready for this level of oral hygiene.

My curiosity aroused, I had a look through our cupboards and discovered that nearly all household products in America carry a toll-free number. You can ring up for guidance on how to use soap and shampoo, gain helpful tips on where to store ice-cream so that it doesn't melt, and receive professional advice on which parts of your body you can most successfully and stylishly apply nail polish to. ("So let me get this

straight. You're saying not on my forehead?"

For those who do not have access to a telephone, or who perhaps have a telephone but have not yet mastered its use, most products also carry helpful tips such as "Remove shells before eating" (on peanuts) and "Caution: do not re-use as beverage container" (on a bleach bottle). We recently bought an electric iron which admonished us, among other things, not to use it in conjunction with explosive materials. In a broadly similar vein, I read a couple of weeks ago that computer software companies are considering re-writing the instruction "Strike any key when ready" because so many people have been calling to say they can't find the "Any" key.

Until a few days ago I would have chortled richly at people who need this sort of guidance, but then three things happened that made me modify my views.

First, I read in the paper how John Smoltz, a pitcher for the Atlanta Braves baseball team, showed up for training with a

painful red welt across his chest and, when pressed, sheepishly admitted he had tried to iron a shirt while he was wearing it.

Second, although I have never done anything quite so foolish as that, it was only because I had not thought of it.

Third, and perhaps most conclusively, two nights ago I went out to run two small errands - specifically, to buy some pipe tobacco and post some letters. I bought the tobacco, carried it straight across the street to a letter box, opened the lid and deposited it. I won't tell you how far I walked before it dawned on me that this was not a 100 per cent correct execution of my original plan.

You see my problem. People who need labels on pillar-boxes saying "Not for deposit of tobacco or other personal items" can't very well snarl at others, even those who iron their chests or have to seek lazier advice from a shampoo bottle.

I mentioned all this at dinner the other night and was appalled to see the enthusiasm with which



## BRYSON'S AMERICA

all the members of the family began suggesting labels that would be particularly apt for me, such as "Caution: when door says 'Pull', it's absolutely no use pushing" and "Warning: do not attempt to remove sweater over head while walking among chairs and tables". A particular favourite was "Caution: ensure that shirt buttons are in correct holes before leaving house". This went on for some hours.

I concede that I am somewhat inept with regard to memory, personal grooming, walking through low doorways, and much else, but the thing is, it's my

genes. Allow me to explain.

I recently tore out of the newspaper an article concerning a study at the University of Michigan, or perhaps it was the University of Minnesota (at any rate, it was somewhere cold with "University" in the title), which found that absent-mindedness is a genetically inherited trait. I put it in a file marked "Absent-mindedness" and, of course, immediately mislaid the file.

In searching for it I found another file intriguingly marked "Genes and So On", which is just as interesting and - here was the lucky part - not altogether irrelevant. In it I found a copy of a report from the 29 November 1995 issue of the journal *Science* entitled "Association of Anxiety-related Traits with a Polymorphism in the Serotonin Transporter Gene Regulatory Region". Now, to be frank, I don't follow polymorphism in serotonin or transporters as closely as I ought, at least not during basketball season, but when I read "By regulating the magnitude and duration of serotonergic responses, the 5-

HT transporter (5-HTT) is central to the fine-tuning of brain serotonergic eurotransmission," I thought, Hey, these fellows could be on to something.

The upshot of the study is that scientists have located a gene (specifically gene SLC6A4 on chromosome 17q12, in case you want to experiment at home) which found that absent-mindedness is a genetically inherited trait. I put it in a file marked "Absent-mindedness" and, of course, immediately mislaid the file.

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Cold, and I think you can see that our genes have a great deal to answer for.

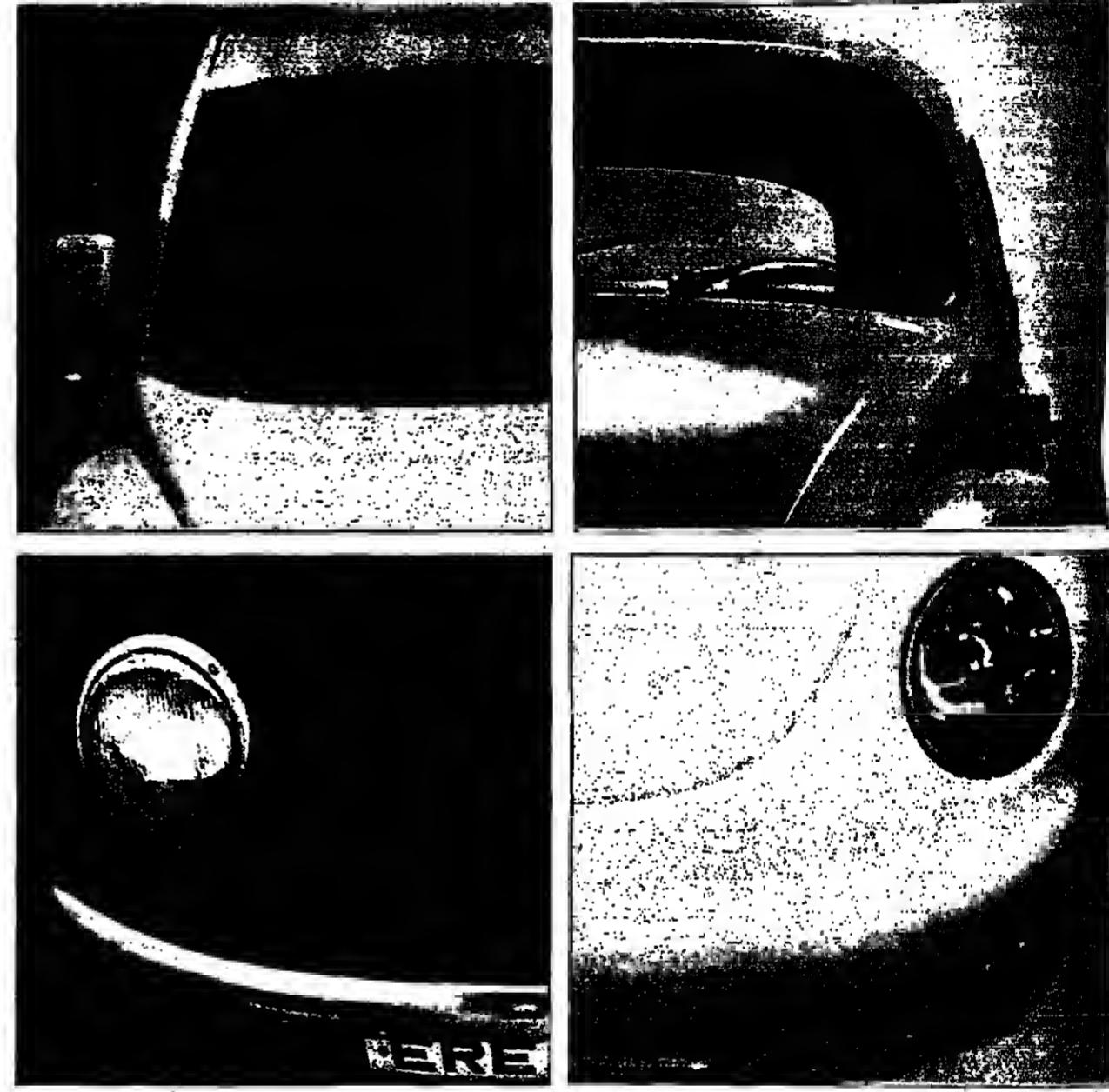
Here's another interesting fact from my "Genes and So On" file. According to Richard Dawkins in *The Blind Watchmaker*, each one of the 10,000 billion cells in the human body contains more genetic information than the entire *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (and without sending a salesman to your door), yet it appears that 90 per cent of all our genetic material doesn't do anything at all. It just sits there, like Uncle Fred and Aunt Muriel when they drop by on a Sunday.

From this I believe we can draw four important conclusions, namely: 1) Even though your genes don't do much they can let you down in lots of embarrassing ways; 2) always post your letters first, then buy the tobacco; 3) never promise a list of four things if you can't remember the fourth one, and 4)...

*'Notes from a Big Country' by Bill Bryson (Doubleday, £16.99).*

Volkswagen has updated its most famous car, but are the punters suffering from nostalgia or infantilism? By Geoff Nicholson

# Beetle-mania, Nineties-style



Mixing old and new: people who want to buy the New Beetle say it reminds them of the original

**THE VW** Beetle is a major 20th-century icon. But what is it an icon of? Hitler's vision of a mobilised Germany? The Californian myth of love on the road? Or in the moment of its second coming, does it stand for the continued failure of a generation to put away childish things?

When I was in New York a few years ago promoting a novel of mine called *Still Life With Volkswagens*, a local photographer and I set off to find an old VW Beetle so I could be posed in front of it for an author pic. It was a long, frustrating afternoon, and I thought this was strange because I'd been to America plenty of times before and there had always seemed to be a Beetle on every street corner. They seemed absolutely all-American. But the truth was, I'd mostly visited California and the desert southwest. These, it appeared, were Beetle places. New York obviously was not.

We did eventually find a Beetle, and later, when I started living in New York, I met one or two people who owned or had owned Beetles. Lesley, for instance, used to have a "triple white" Beetle convertible - that's one with a white body, interior and hood. It hadn't been a success. The hood hadn't offered enough security. People would break into the car while it was parked and use it as a toilet, and the final straw came when she left it for a couple of days, then returned to find that some street person had made his home in the back seat.

I learnt to live with the idea that New York just wasn't a Beetle kind of town. I'd see the occasional one, but they were a rarity, and the whole thing about Beetles is that they're supposed to be ubiquitous. Seeing one isn't supposed to be an event. Then one day I was walking down Fifth Avenue and I saw this strange little black bubble of a car driving along, kind of retro, kind of futuristic. Of course, I knew what it was because I follow these things, but that didn't make it any less surprising or shocking or pleasing. Coming at me was one of the much-vaunted, much-talked-about New Beetles, Volkswagen's end-of-the-millennium rethink of the old favourite, a car that one of its designers, Freeman Thomas, described as "warm Bauhaus". It looked very much like a New York car. It was something to do

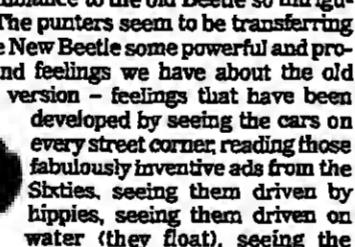
with the contrast between this vehicle that was all curves and flow, and the geometry of straight roads and vertical skyscrapers. I was very glad to see it.

A lot of New Yorkers apparently feel the same. The New Beetles have invaded the city, although not quite at the rate many would-be purchasers would like. Waiting lists at the dealerships are long, and when your car arrives the chances are that it won't be in the colour you ordered. Everybody wants yellow or silver; Volkswagen appears to want you to have white. People are taking what they can get. Either that, or they answer an ad in *The New York Times* offering one at a \$3,000 premium.

Of course, the New Beetle is by no means only a New York car. They're madly popular in California, naturally, and there'd be plenty of people who'd buy them in Britain if only VW would pull its finger out and make a right-hand-drive version. It says it's working on it, but keeps postponing it. You sense the company stage-managing demand. People always want things they know they can't have. The consumer is being manipulated. And yet, in another way, the New Beetle looks like a major triumph for consumer power.

The car started life as the Concept One, a design exercise that first appeared at the 1994 Detroit Auto Show. It was a product of VW's California Design Studio, and was never really intended to go into production; it was just a bit of window-dressing, something to attract the punters to the stand. However, having been attracted they were far more interested in the Concept One than in any of the VW cars they could buy. Something had to give.

Motor manufacturers are happy to give the public what it wants, so long as it happens to be what the manufacturers want too. Besides, industry wisdom has it that what people say



they want is very different from what they really want. Nobody ever felt any overwhelming emotional response towards the Ford Escort or the Toyota Corolla, yet they shifted by the million. The other side is that people lie through their teeth about these things. They say they care about safety when all they really care about is acceleration and aggressive styling. They say how much they care about the environment and then they go and buy petrol-guzzling, four-wheel-drive monsters.

However, there's no doubt that plenty of people are sincere about liking and wanting to buy the New Beetle, and they always say there are three reasons for this: that it's cute, that it's fun, and that it reminds them of the old Beetle. I think there's a certain amount of double-think in all this. First, I'm not sure just how cute the old Beetle is. It's always been easy to find people who found it profoundly ugly, including VW apparently, since one of their early advertising slogans was "Ugly is only skin deep".

And fun? Well you could take an old Beetle, and paint it up and make it look as though it might be a fun car, but it was never much fun to drive. It was a nightmare going round tight bends and lethal in a crosswind, and if you ever tried to do comparatively simple things such as change the battery or a brake cable you pretty much had a definition of "no fun" right there. The old Beetle was quirky, eccentric: the engine was in the wrong place; the pedals seemed to be in the wrong place; rear visibility was thrillingly, dangerously non-existent.

None of this is true of the New Beetle. It looks different from other cars, but it drives much like any other; say, like a Golf Mark 4 in fancy dress, which is essentially what it is; a custom body wrapped around tried and tested, quirky-free mechanics.

And that's what makes it cosmetic resemblance to the old Beetle so intriguing. The punters seem to be transferring to the New Beetle some powerful and profound feelings we have about the old version - feelings that have been developed by seeing the cars on every street corner; reading those fabulously inventive ads from the Sixties, seeing them driven by hippies, seeing them driven on water (they float), seeing the

notoriously anthropomorphic *Herbie* movies. It's a form of product loyalty, a form of nostalgia - also, perhaps, a form of infantilism.

The New Beetle is designed to be liked. No manufacturer designs a car that's actively meant to be hated, but there's something curiously toy-like and frivolous about the New Beetle. I wonder whether this is part of the continuing infantilism of Baby Boomers, a disinclination to grow up, a refusal to put away childish things.

Last month I was at a VW show in a field in upstate New York; a hundred or so Beetles of all sorts, from Fifties split-screen models up to New Beetles bought the

previous week. The New Beetles looked fine, but they somehow looked too simple, too designish. They lacked history and patina, which are the very things that draw people to the original Beetle. This is not really a complaint, but there was a distinct coolness between the two sets of owners. The New Beetle brigade were over one side of the field, and they were forced to keep themselves to themselves, which, admittedly, they were perfectly happy to do.

One thing's for sure: in the numbers game the New Beetle will never compete with the old one, simply because the world has changed too much. Single models just don't sell in those quantities any more, and

nobody really wants them to. Put it this way: Volkswagen is aiming to sell about 50,000 New Beetles this year, at which rate it will take more or less 400 years before it gets anywhere near matching the sales figures of the original Beetle. More than 22 million of them have been produced, and there's a factory in Mexico still turning them out today. That's an impossible act to follow. The New Beetle, I suspect, will come to be seen as a footnote to the original, but as footnotes go, it's a good 'un'.

*Geoff Nicholson's latest novel, "Female Roots", is published by Indigo on 1 March, price £9.99.*

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## FAMILY AFFAIR

Arabella Melville, 50, is a writer and research fellow at the University of York. She lives with her partner Colin Johnson, 59, a consultant philosopher, in North Wales. Arabella's book 'Difficult Men - Strategies for women who choose not to leave' (published by Vermilion) draws on her own experience of living with a partner who has a potentially violent temper. Bella decided to stay with Colin, despite his aggressive outbursts, and to try and resolve their problems

## Learning to live with anger

Arabella

When I first met Colin, I looked up to him. He was a successful, mature and confident businessman. I was very young for my 26 years - he was nine years older. What really held us together was the same philosophical views; Colin carries on further along one line of thought than anyone I've ever met. I found this exciting. He has the most amazing insights, and is now writing a book about the philosophy of health. We've both always questioned things and built our own systems, ethics and moralities.

About 10 years into our relationship, his business went bankrupt and suddenly he had no income. He got quite depressed and really lost confidence. Then I got a job at Swansea University and became the main breadwinner. It was around that time things started to get difficult, and I think he began to feel quite powerless.

The problems built up gradually; Colin can be impetuous and, in some ways, excessive. It slowly became worse. We'd have loads of major arguments about trivial issues, and he'd become aggressive.

He didn't hit me often, and when he did the bruises weren't terribly obvious. I do remember once, though, being in a shop changing room with my stepdaughter. She noticed this big green-blue bruise on my thigh and asked, "How did you do that?" I replied, "Your dad kicked me." She wasn't really that surprised - Colin had been in a much more violent relationship with his previous wife.

Occasionally, though not frequently, Colin would thump or kick me. He'd also throw things. He would lose control and would cry and hide my face. The fear used to be with me all the time and affected every aspect of our relationship. There was a phase when I thought that I would have to leave. That's when I went to see a therapist who looked at the issue of Colin's aggression and my fear. We did this amazing exercise that made an enormous impression on me. She played Colin and I played me then we swapped roles. When I played him I was suddenly able to see ... my behaviour - of coddling me for myself, and allowing myself to be bullied - made Colin's violent behaviour more likely to happen.

It was a wonderful breakthrough when I realised I could control the situation. I had to show by my actions that abuse of any sort is not acceptable. If he ever starts to attack me verbally I say, "I'm sorry, this isn't acceptable" and walk off. You have to accept that it can always be a problem if you live with a man who has a potentially violent temper. It would be lovely if they could stop their temper but I'm not sure that they can.

I'm still having to cope with his potentially violent behaviour but because I behave differently, it happens very rarely. I used to try to be whatever he wanted me to be to stop his insults and aggressive behaviour. Now I simply don't tolerate it.

There is a strong bond between Colin and me. He really didn't want to hurt me. He still tells me that. Colin described his aggression as a pimple bursting and the guts pouring out. He'd feel better immediately afterwards but later on would feel awful, because I'd be a wreck for days after the attack.

The biggest outbursts happened about five years ago; we've moved on since then. I can safely say that I'm never scared of him now. That's the biggest relief of all.

Colin

I suppose our relationship came to a head around five years ago. By that point we'd been to places most people never reach: we'd lived in a community, worked in business, been rich and poor, and existed alone on a farm.

I wanted equally, for her to be a real person. Our society tends to bring up girls to be compliant women and

I think some of our problems emerged when life became more mundane. Neither of us was suited to farming life, and it was tough. At times I had outbursts of anger that were beyond control. When you're in a very difficult situation your partner suddenly becomes part of the problem that you're trying to solve. You just have to burst out of it somehow.

We reached the point where Bella decided to go to a therapist; a woman who produced insights that Bella found staggering. A major one was how the dynamic of her behaviour was negative and producing negative things within me.

It was an instant revelation, and we had to work at these problems for some time. But Bella's realisation that she had to put down some markers effectively began to change the relationship for both of us.

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Bella got a lot of that when she was young. Paradoxically I'd be the one to say, "Be yourself. Go for it. Don't wait to be led." But I couldn't do that for her. I used to infuriate me when she had been so supine. It was like adding fuel to the fire. It was short-lived, a flash fire of adrenaline and insanity.

But I always respected her as a person and I just really wanted the situation to change. I don't know what explanation there was for my aggressive behaviour; I was born in the Second World War so I was familiar with violence in certain circumstances. I don't think there's any such thing as a totally non-violent person.

When it came to the crunch between Bella and me, we had to look one another in the eyes and ask, "Do we still love each other?" The answer was "yes" so we decided to try to solve the problem. When a partner has violent tendencies, many women can't leave. It's simply not realistic, economically or psychologically.

Steve Peake

Because we've stayed together and worked things through, Bella is much more secure and I am able to look at her more as a person now. In the past, I took on problems and got angry when she wasn't part of the answer. Now we interact more mutually.

I always felt that what we had was very special, no matter how bad it got. Some part of me thought, "This goes far beyond us splitting up." We do get very well indeed; we miss each other whenever we're apart and we spend a lot of time laughing and chatting when we are together.

Our relationship is still hard work. Change is the most difficult thing humans confront. When you meet a partner you tend to think, "I'm set up for life now."

You've got to keep learning and growing through. Nowadays, the anger is still there but the difference is that Bella isn't a part of the things I get angry about.

INTERVIEWS BY EMMA COOK

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The creation of the world's first left-handed piano may also be helpful in brain research. By Michael Church

# Making left hand music

**M**usic is a thing we can neither see, touch, nor smell, but we talk as though it were a feast for the senses. Chords can be dark, and arpeggios bright; melodic lines are smooth or jagged; we talk of Debussy's watercolour landscapes, and of Dmitri Hvorostovsky's smoky tones. All lies, and all absolutely integral to our pleasure.

Just as nature abhors a vacuum, so do our minds fill music's sensory void with metaphor. But music can at least be high or low, can't it? No, because that too is a metaphor. The relative "height" of a note depends on the frequency of its vibration, and has nothing to do with its situation in space.

Moreover this high-low notion, when expressed in terms of a keyboard, brings in its train another idea to which we are just as firmly wedded. Low-to-high means left-to-right; while the left hand growls, the right hand sings. Well, surely that goes without saying!

Oh no it doesn't. And to prove it is a man with a piano whose keyboard ascends from right to left. Chris Seed is a left-hander, and he's just created the world's first left-handed piano, out of sheer frustration. "At the Royal College of Music my tutors were always saying 'If only your right hand were as good as your left.' My right was clumsier, which meant I had to say off Chopin and the Romantics – the music I most wanted to play."

Two years ago he tried a computerised keyboard in a mirror image of the normal pattern. He found he adjusted to it remarkably quickly, so decided to commission the building of a real-life instrument – a replica of an 1826 Graf fortepiano – along similar lines. "People told me I was mad, but I knew it was a good idea."

Just how good an idea it was emerged recently when he took his Graf to a period-instrument fair in Bruges, where left-handers fell on it with delight. He noted that Oriental players were particularly adept at it, right-handers as well as left. "Maybe it's because they're already used to making this kind of



Christopher Seed with a model of a piano designed for left handed individuals

adjustment, having to read at home in the opposite direction."

Making the change, he says, has fundamentally altered his perception of certain pieces of music, a discovery that may have interesting implications for right-brain/left-brain research. Meanwhile, psychologists at the Royal Holloway College are devising a project – based on Seed and his seedlings – to examine the way that old habits affect our acquisition of new skills, and also the way these new skills

may in turn affect the old habits. There is a celebrated ocular precedent for what Seed is doing. What we see is printed upside down on the retina, but our brains interpret it as the right way up. When people are experimentally given glasses that automatically invert the image, they spend three days in ocular confusion before their brain can readjust. When the glasses are taken off, they stumble about again until their brain reverts to the original adjustment.

It took Seed two weeks to make his initial adjustment, and when he plays a conventional instrument he must consciously switch modes, but he now plays as comfortably in both directions. But he is not a typical case, whereas I most certainly am, and when I try to pick out a simple tune on the Graf I feel as though I'm going mad. After a few minutes I discover it's easier with my eyes shut, but the thing still seems deeply weird.

Seed laughs: his eight-year-old

son, who is also a left-hander, apparently plays in both directions, as do his left-handed pupils at Winchester College where he teaches one day a week. Will this invention make him rich? "I doubt it. I looked into the patent situation, but was told I couldn't own rights because the thing has no new parts. I'm just the pilot for an idea."

On the other hand, he has patented a simple midi adaptor (available from Loughborough Projects, 01509 262 042) which will in-

vert any electronic keyboard. This, I guess, could be a morale-booster for young left-handers. Next Thursday he will give a recital on his Graf at London's Queen Elizabeth Hall – Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and Chopin. This will be a triple coming-out – for the left-handed concept, for the rare Graf replica, and for himself as a pianist. Yes, he admits, the evening will have a lot riding on it. Queen Elizabeth Hall box office 0171-960 4242

Russel Sachs

## Soul diva shines

POP

LAURYN HILL  
BRIXTON ACADEMY, LONDON

TO GET the full effect of Lauryn Hill's show, you needed more than a passing acquaintance with a range of musical styles that traversed decades as well as cultural divides.

As Hill took a break half-way through the set, her 13-strong entourage juxtaposed jazz with calypso, dub reggae with rock and swing with gospel, infusing Brixton Academy with a boisterous carnival atmosphere. This instrumental interlude was rounded off with a riotous session at the decks where a pair of DJs took to spinning records with their shirts over their heads. But even they couldn't outshine Hill.

After the monument to cliché that was The Fugees, Lauryn Hill has had a lot of ground to cover in her quest for credibility.

The Fugees may have made a string of hits, but their hip hop prattling and numerous cover versions had rap purists frothing at the mouth in fury. But while the former Fugees Pras and Wyde Jean went on to produce some mind-bogglingly awful records, Hill redeemed herself with an album, *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill*, which delighted hip hop purists and R&B devotees alike, and introduced newcomers to the notion that rap really could exist with a woman at the helm.

This achievement was gracefully backed by Friday night's show. As Hill moved between the mellifluous soul of "Nothing Even Matters" and the emphatic rap of "Every Ghetto, Every City", the auditorium rippled with the sound of her honeyed voice and the crowd were reduced to kindergarten kids waiting for their teacher to dispense the next piece of wisdom. Hill gesticulated with every word, clutching her head, twitching her eyebrows.

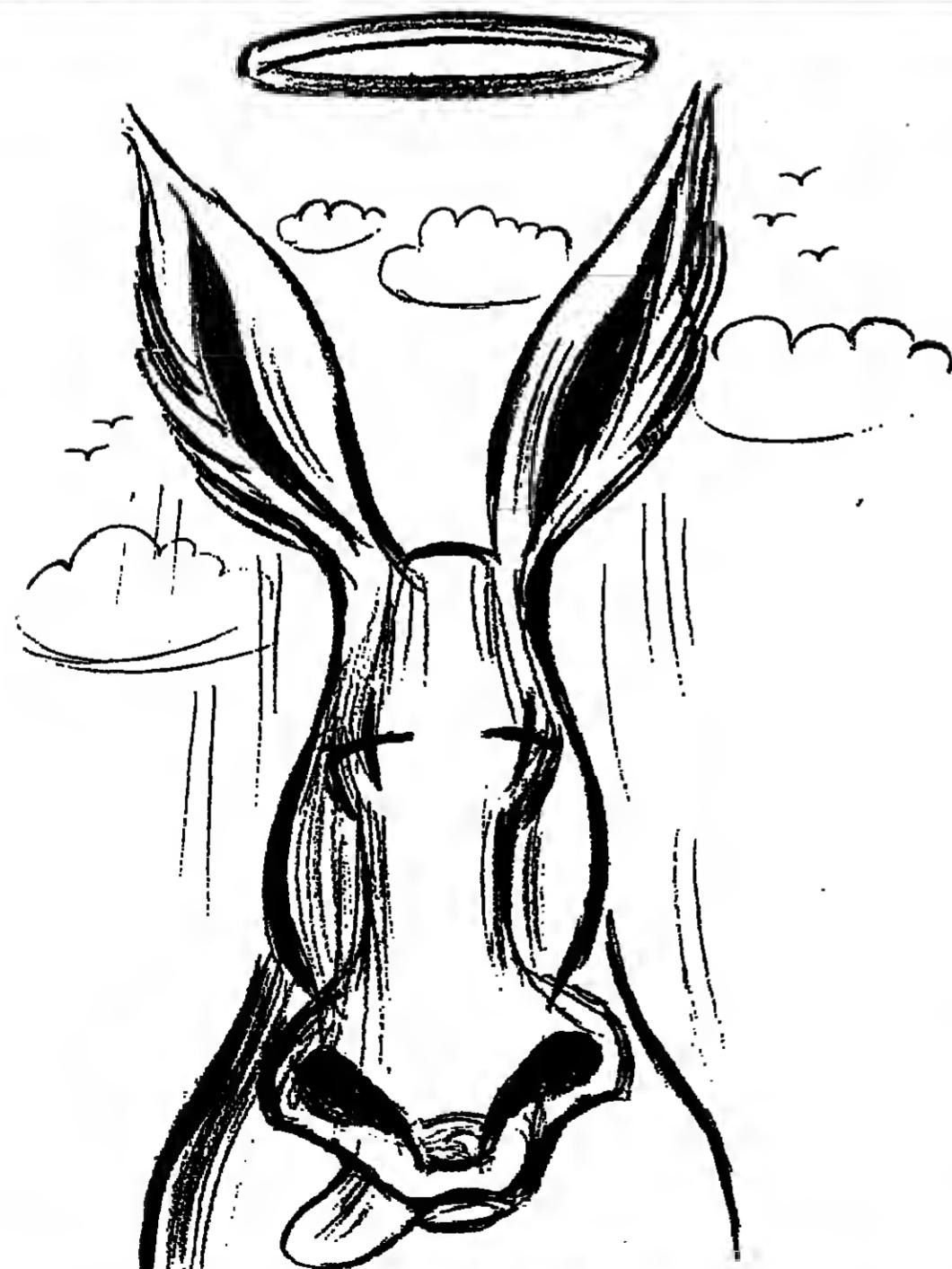
But behind the unsullied sweetness of her face, Hill revealed traces of bile. "Some wan play young Lauryn like she done/But a new thing test me, run for my gun," she spat in "Lost Ones", with a dash of truculence that showed that the rough did indeed come with the smooth.

Hill's pursuit of moral rectitude can be exasperating – the finger-wagging sentiments of "Forgive them Father" made me want to sign up for the next Cradle of Filth gig – but her air of righteousness was short-lived as the undulating bass rhythms and raw emotion of "When it Hurts So Bad" took hold and the crowd lost themselves in Hill's sugary soul.

FIONA STURGES

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## Uneven path to camp heaven

### THEATRE

HUSHABY MOUNTAIN  
LIVERPOOL EVERYMAN

I PERSIST in the belief that Jonathan Harvey has more natural playwriting talent in his camply cocked little finger than the majority of his hipper contemporaries can muster in both hands. It's a conviction, however, that continues to be put to the stiffest of tests. Don't even get me started on the subject of his current TV sitcom, *Gimme, Gimme, Gimme*, a programme in which the one truly funny thing is the helpless laugh-track. And now there are the scenes set in a gay man's idea of the celestial afterlife (all fluffy white clouds and blow me down, Judy Garland) that punctuate Harvey's latest stage work, *Hushaby Mountain*.

As in *Guiding Star*, his recent National Theatre play which tackled the emotional fall-out of the Hillsborough disaster, the subject here is the guilt and anger of the survivor. Suppose you had lost your lover to AIDS. After six months, you

embark on an uneasy friendship with a much younger man who also turns out to be HIV positive. Except that, as this new troubled relationship develops, so does the research that has now significantly increased the life expectancy of sufferers. How would you feel about that? Not unmoved. Helped by fine performances from Stuart Laing as Connor, the survivor and Andrew This Life Lincoln as the dying, then posthumous Danny, it's these conflicted pangs that the play, at its considerable best, explores in all their tragicomic messiness.

There's a simple but very telling device in the piece which allows Harvey to present the "then" and the "now" of AIDS and its effects with an unsentimental

mentally poignant parallelism. Again and again, whether in hotel room, restaurant, beach, or at the flat of E-guzzling, coke-snorting best friend and husband (Rose Keegan and excellent David Kennedy), the new lover will retreat to the bathroom (or wherever) and Danny will re-emerge through the same door, dissolving the past into the present. I could have done without the tingly, slightly supernatural music that accompanies these temporal shifts in Paul Miller's English Touring Theatre production. And it's true, too, that in the economy of the play, Danny remains in Connor's life only as complete memories and not – as one tends to remember loved ones – as a static, active presence in one's head, arguing and intervening (an uncomfortable truth Peter Nichols brilliantly dramatised in *Forget-Me-Not Lane*). But as a means of conveying the heart-

twisting unfairness of it all, this clever structural scheme is truly inspired.

There are sequences – like the one where Danny tells his friends he's tested positive and the dinner party unravels in all sorts of chaotic, unpredictable, painfully funny ways – that demonstrate Harvey's generosity and acute powers of observation. The price you have to pay for this is watching the bafflingly inferior sections that show Danny awaiting entry to spanky, camp heaven. For reasons you would have to be God to understand, the delay seems to have been caused by Danny's estranged mother (Elizabeth Estensen). Down on earth, she's in a mental ward; up in the skies, she rows a boat and thinks she's Judy Garland. Well, which of us doesn't? All the same, you wish this clumsy integrated figure would fall overboard.

PAUL TAYLOR

## Chailly's serial thriller

### CLASSICAL

ROYAL CONCERTGEBOUW  
ORCHESTRA  
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

LONDON

dialectic did not help matters.

The acceleration that he introduced to bring the finale home to its triumphal conclusion did not seem to flow inevitably from what had gone before, but was imposed from outside the music. Brahms's cumulative rhythmic and thematic workings don't need help of this kind. And what were the trombones doing at the cadence? Their final blazing fortissimo chord was delivered at a pale *mezzo-forte* and let the coda down most surprisingly.

Much of the rest of the interpretation seemed decent but run-of-the-mill, and certainly not what might have been expected after the superb

Schoenberg. In truth, Brahms's Violin Concerto, which opened the concert, did not augur that well, since the greatly gifted soloist Vadim Repin substituted a worthy gravity for genuine fire and found a similar response in his accompanists.

*Five Orchestral Pieces*, however, was truly splendid. This extraordinary music still retains its ability to shock 90 years after its composition, and also to bewilder. Judging by a number of stony faces near me during the generally warm and richly deserved applause at the close, the main reason for listeners' difficulties was made all the more obvious in Chailly's wonderfully clear unfolding of Schoenberg's invention. We are bemused at the outset because the composer plunges us immediately into the heart of a complex development, or so it seems, without the benefit of being introduced to the musi-

cal material in a more leisurely style through classical exposition. Almost before we can grasp the topics under heated discussion, the debate is over, and much the same happens in the fourth piece.

But in an age that – through cinema, TV and technology – is growing used to taking in massive amounts of information at high speed, Schoenberg may at last be coming into his own. And for those who still like to have their musical arguments progress at a slower pace, the second and third movements generate a sensuous beauty that enchants the ear.

All this was shaped and coloured with exquisite clarity and understanding by Chailly and his superb players, and I was grateful for what could still perhaps be viewed, after all this time, as a brave piece of programming.

ANTHONY PAYNE

Soul die  
shines

Prop  
s

A new sitcom is trying to portray the decade that taste forgot, but does it even come close? By Gerard Gilbert

# Reinventing the Seventies

**T**hink of some words that you would associate with Britain in the Seventies. Grey - perhaps beige? Strife... yobbishness... strikes. Dingy... dowdy... terrible clothes. Three-day weeks... Winter of Discontent... party sevens... Led Zeppelin... Ford Cortinas.

What you are perhaps unlikely to think of is sunshine. The sun is always shining in ITV's new sitcom, *Days Like These*. This is the British version of the hit American sitcom, *That Seventies Show*. That's partly because it's all filmed in a studio (weirdly, the most Sevenies thing about this paean to all things Seventies). But it's also because this is a relentlessly cheery version of that decade. It's a *Happy Days* for the Nineties - a nostalgia theme park full of Space-hoppers, lava lamps and bell-bottoms.

The year is 1976 - admittedly the year of the great heat wave - but the light is not a British light - it's American. It is set in Luton, where the central characters are all coming of age and hang about in a garage that has been converted into a den. Does anybody in Luton, now or then, hang about in garage dens? This isn't Luton; it's New Jersey or Marin County, California.

If this were really what the Seventies was like, Margaret Thatcher would never have become prime minister; Ronald McDonald would have; ITV's British adaptation of *That Seventies Show* (Finnish and French versions are apparently in the pipeline) is overruled by the US comedy producers Carsey Werner, who make the original in the States, but adapted for British audiences by two British writers, Sam Bain and Jesse Armstrong. Former writers-in-residence at Planet 24 (they script the gags for *The Big Breakfast*), Bain and Armstrong are in their mid-twenties. They would have been just out of nappies in 1976 - and here, perhaps, lies part of the problem.

*Days Like These* is a sitcom about Britain in the Seventies based on US scripts and adapted by two Brits who were barely sentient at the time. "It wasn't a problem," insists the show's British producer, John Bartlett, a comedy veteran who produced *Goodnight Sweetheart* for the BBC. "There were enough people on the staff of the show with personal memories of the Seventies, so if anything seemed wrong, we'd correct it."

David Liddiment, director of programmes at ITV, is dismissive of the idea that the show should be a slavish re-creation of the ambience of Callaghan's Britain. "It's a sitcom - it's not seeking to be a social document," he says. "We're seeking to have fun about our collective memories of the Seventies. It's slightly unreal, but I like that. Doesn't the sun always shine on the past?"

Liddiment calls the show "affirmative without being soppy" and argues that it doesn't ignore all the social realities of the times. The



Decade of laughter: the stars of 'Days Like These' (above) were probably not even alive in 1976, the year in which the sitcom is set. The show is a British version of a US hit. 'Steptoe and Son', 'Till Death Us Do Part' and 'Men Behaving Badly' (from left, below) all made the trip across the Atlantic in the opposite direction



father of the central teenage character, Eric, is a car worker on short-term working there's a brief scene in Friday's opening episode where he expresses his feelings of guilt about having just purchased a Japanese car - but the realism is immediately undercut by some peculiar casting. While Eric's mother (played by the Philadelphia Cream Cheese girl Ann Bryson) and father (Trevor Cooper) are skilled working class,

their son (Max Wrottersley) speaks with a public-school accent. For the record, this corner of Bedfordshire suburbia also contains a Yorkshire teenager and a German exchange student. The show's weird sense of dislocation is similar to ITV's original - and highly successful - attempt to anglicise an American sitcom, *The Upper Hand*. The British version of the US sitcom *Who's the Boss?*, it starred Joe McGann as the ex-Tottenham

Hotspur footballer who finds himself housekeeping for Diane Weston's glamorous businesswoman. The show's British "re-versionists" (as they say in the trade jargon) were American, and the supposed setting of Henley-on-Thames was pure Connecticut. Audiences didn't seem to mind at all, however, and ITV's next attempt to import and localise a US sitcom (again with *Columbia/TriStar*) was *Loved by You*, an almost word-for-

word transposition to London loftland of the hit New York-set show *Mad About You*. It starred John Gordon Sinclair and Trevor McDowell in the Paul Reiser/Helen Hunt roles, and was plausible but anaemic.

"It didn't get off the ground," admits Liddiment. "Mad About You" was sassy and very Jewish. *Loved by You* was more laid back."

Liddiment denies that ITV's "re-versioning" of American

comedy is part of some grand design - a "third way" between the BBC's devotion to home-grown, one-man-and-a-typewriter sitcoms, and Channel 4's and Sky's taste for the importing the real thing, lock, stock and chain-smoking writing teams.

"I'm not doing this because I think that the future of comedy is adapting US successes," says Liddiment. "If we are to find pre-watered comedy success - and this goes for all

the channels - we are going to have to start thinking differently. In longer runs than six or seven. The American system guarantees 22 episodes a year. Their producers do it better than anybody else."

The comedian Graham Lineham, one of the writers on *Big Train* and *Father Ted*, remains sceptical. "ITV has had something of a record for giving shows away, like *Men Behaving Badly*, or stopping shows half-way through runs," he says. "Few sitcoms ever arrive fully formed; they need time and space to develop."

"I think the standard of comedy is incredibly high at the moment - there's *The Royle Family*, *I'm Alan Partridge* and *Goodness Gracious Me*. It's a bit of a golden age. Bringing in American producers may work, but it is an act of desperation when no desperation is needed."

*Days Like These* is on Friday at 8.30pm, on ITV

THIS WAS  
THE WEEK  
THAT WAS

Lewd  
and  
rude

Today On this day in 1972 a gig by Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention at the Albert Hall in London was cancelled because of the "obscene lyrics" in one of their numbers, 'Only one'.

Tomorrow At the 1893 Four Arts Ball at the Moulin Rouge in Paris, an artist's model named Mona performed the first strip tease. Troops were mobilised to quell the student riot that was triggered off by her subsequent prosecution and fine.

Wednesday Glenn Miller received the first gold disc in 1942 for his "Chattanooga Choo Choo", although the first real million-seller was probably Caruso singing "On with the Moley" from *I Pagliacci*. In 1988 John Gielgud trod the boards in *The Best of Friends*, with the longest role played by an 83-year-old.



Thursday Burt Reynolds (above), the footballer-turned-actor-turned-first male nude centre spread in *Cosmopolitan*, was born in 1936. He popped up, as it were, in the recent film about blue-movies, *Boogie Nights*.

Friday The music hall mega-star Marie Lloyd was born in 1870. Her repertoire included "She'd Never had her Ticket Punched Before" and "A Little of What you Fancy does you Good". A little of what she fancied got her divorced twice for adultery.

Saturday Georges Rouault, one of the few painters with four contiguous vowels, died in 1958. Beginning as a glass engraver, he switched to painting prostitutes, clowns and - purely imaginary, of course - evil lawyers.

Sunday The first night of *The Importance of Being Earnest* was the place to be seen in 1895, but pretty soon being caught in the audience of an Oscar Wilde play was about as fashionable as being a Euro MP caught in Customs with gay porn. If it's any consolation to the ghosts of the Bugs Moran gang, who were shot in Chicago 70 years ago, the St Valentine's Day Massacre inspired a great opening scene for *Some Like it Hot*.

JONATHAN SALE

## BRITISH SITCOMS AN IMPORTANT INFLUENCE ON US TV

TIME WAS when the Americans couldn't get enough of our sitcoms. Here are five British comedies that crossed the Atlantic.

Sanford and Son The US version of *Steptoe and Son* ran from 1972 to 1977 and

made the two junk-dealers black, presumably because an oppressed minority would be more likely to be running such a down-market business.

Three's Company The Americanised version of *Men about the House*, from

1977. The landlord/landlady couple Mr and Mrs Roper spawned their own show, *The Ropers*.

All in the Family The first British sitcom to be transposed to an American setting was *Till Death Us Do Part* in 1971, with Archie

Bunker the US equivalent of Alf Garnett. A watered-down version of the British original, it was the top-rated sitcom for five years.

Cosby One Foot in the Groove The US version had Bill Cosby and his *Cosby Show* wife Phylicia Rashad in the Richard Wilson/Annette Crosbie roles.

sitcom was scheduled at 8pm on a Sunday. It was cancelled after 28 shows.

*Men Behaving Badly* Less raunchy than its British namesake, the US version of the lewdish

comics is part of some grand design - a "third way" between the BBC's devotion to home-grown, one-man-and-a-typewriter sitcoms, and Channel 4's and Sky's taste for the importing the real thing, lock, stock and chain-smoking writing teams.

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## When your set provides a rude awakening

### DANCE

SHOBANA JEYASINGH  
GARDNER ARTS CENTRE  
BRIGHTON

the starting-point, although they are supplemented by several different techniques.

Some of her past explorations provide the material for the other new work on this programme, *Memory and Other Props*. The range of this becomes clear near the beginning, when one young woman first holds a pose reminiscent of Indian statues, then breaks from it to make her exit with a gymnastic forward roll. In spite of this, there is too much sameness in the pace; or perhaps the weakness is rather that the dancers rarely relate much to each other or to Alistair Mac Donald's ragbag score, even when a voice is compellingly rattling out the rhythms.

It all sounded pretty inconsequential, but in that respect it matched Shobana Jeyasingh's choreography only too well. You can see easily enough what she is trying to do, namely to mix and match a whole collection of different movement styles, although I assume from the Indian basic training of her six dancers, all women, that her own origins in classical south Indian dance (Bharatha Natyam) are still

what is lacking elsewhere. Fine Frenzy is forced along more crisply by Bates's score, but here again the dances are not terribly cohesive. And it struck me that after the exceptionally bold, expressive dancing we have been seeing lately from the Frankfurt, Wuppertal and Birmingham companies, maybe expectations have been set higher than Jeyasingh's careful, conscientious but slightly plodding team can reach.

However, even the most exceptional cast might find a problem in competing with Madeleine Morris's rudely intrusive designs for Fine Frenzy. The curved sheets of plastic, wound around with coloured cords, which she has ranged across the back of the stage, look pleasant and innocuous enough at first. But after a while first one, then another, start calling attention to themselves by flashing lights in contrasting colours. This distraction draws the eye away from the stage action; unfair competition that the cast cannot really meet.

JOHN PERCIVAL

## Back to Hungarian roots for an earthy Bartok

### CLASSICAL

LSO/SARAH CHANG  
BARBICAN, LONDON

remembered. Chang lent it a primitive sophistication - which is the contradiction at the heart of Bartok.

Most concertos set up their primary opposition between the soloist and the orchestra. In this work, it's soloist versus soloist, realist versus dreamer. Chang caught it beautifully. She wasn't afraid to be plain, even downright unlovely, while the fantasy went beyond the merely cosmetic.

Sir Colin Davis and the orchestra were big, bold and - wherever necessary - uncouth. All of which seemed like very bad manners indeed in the wake of Elgar's *Serenade for Strings* (now, that's what I call capricious programming). Not that there was any gentle need about Davis's reading, or the enormous string band he chose to deploy. It was a mighty, sumptuous noise, but a little like outing an essentially salon piece and in-

sisting that it behave like one of Elgar's butch symphonic works.

Beethoven similarly well-photographed. His Seventh Symphony emerged like a heavyweight from eight rounds with Richard Wagner. Not so much the "apotheosis of the dance" as a knees-up in Valhalla. Even allowing for Davis's penchant for the bigger-is-better Napoleonic view of Beethoven, large forces (which Beethoven used in his performances of this symphony) need not mean dense and opaque texturing. Little was revealed here beyond the broadest outlines of the piece. Double woodwinds were absorbed into the string sound, with much detail simply lost. If that great finale is the engine-room of 18th-century symphonic music as it powers into the 19th century, then I want to hear more of the mechanism. Divided violins would have helped to delineate the rhythmic tease not least in the thrilling shoot-out in the coda, but the problem went deeper than that. Size matters? Not on this showing.

EDWARD SECKERSON

### VIDEO WATCH

MIKE HIGGINS

A Rather English Marriage.  
£12.99

SOMEHOW CARLTON managed to pick up the video rights for this drama, originally broadcast by the BBC last year. I suppose that the ITV company shovels enough rubbish down our throats to at least recognise vintage fluff when it spots it.

Andrew Davies's adaptation of Angela Carter's novel dusts off that hackneyed old formula, the odd couple. Following the deaths of their wives on the same day, Albert Finney, an ex-squadron leader, offers Tom Courtenay, a retired milkman, a roof over his head in exchange for his lodger's housekeeping skills.

For all its cosy premise, the script doesn't flinch from rendering the emotional disasters of the widowers' personal lives. Finney and Courtenay further elevate proceedings, nursing some lovely exchanges out of the run-of-the-mill dialogue.

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# NETWORK

## Newspapers fail the screen test

**I**t's almost five years since the first newspapers launched their websites. *The Electronic Telegraph*, *The Guardian*, *The Scotsman*, and our own *Independent* have ventured into the cyberspace with a seemingly simple mission: to get the news to us quicker, using real-time updates. Editors promised to keep us better informed, thanks to hypertext, which enabled journalists to cross-reference relevant articles.

I also distinctly remember talk of helping us readers to make our voices heard via e-mail feedback, which was meant to be published in real time. Some of the bravest souls, on the editorial teams, even talked about providing readers with their own space on bulletin boards, to let them talk things out among themselves and thus bring back the concept of a real community newspaper. Since the Internet was a new

medium, we were all holding our breath, waiting for the cool things that newspapers could create, over and above reformatting their print editions. Great expectations accompanied the launch of every online newspaper and careers were to be made in the brave new world of interactive publishing.

Many system breakdowns and budget overruns later, where exactly are we with those visionary plans? If we examine the first objective of getting us the news in real time, then I must say that it hasn't quite worked out that way.

A test was the Glenn Hoddle debacle last week, where the news of his sacking broke at 7.21pm, and it was only *The Guardian* that let us know within 10 minutes. All the other newspaper sites were only displaying the news the next morning.

As this was pretty much the most important news that day, lack of real-time coverage shows that the

concept is beyond the capabilities of most UK online newspapers.

The second goal was to make us better informed by providing news in the context of cross-referenced articles, using hypertext links to people, facts, locations or companies mentioned in an article. A fine example of such "smarter" news is found on [www.news.com](http://www.news.com) or [www.zdnet.com](http://www.zdnet.com), where every article is edited to include links to relevant external or internal documents.

News.com also provides "related links" to a selection of articles from archives going back several months, providing the reader with an in-depth picture of the topic.

Obviously, hypertext linking of articles is too much trouble for UK newspapers. One must seriously wonder why our newspapers even bother to publish electronic versions, if hypertext links are not going to be provided in the body of the piece, and HTML tagging is not



**EVA PASCOE**  
Hypertext linking of articles is too much trouble for UK newspapers

actually used in the way the articles are presented.

The third goal of interactive newspapers was to help readers to be heard and contribute their views

through e-mail. The e-mail response was to be published in real time and thus enhance the spirit of community. How do our papers score here? In general, not too good, as most limit their efforts to providing an e-mail address to the editor who then may or may not choose to publish them in the next day's edition. This is a one-sided form of communication, but it's easier to manage than a real-time bulletin board where all the comments and opinions of the readers are published instantaneously, thus allowing the readers to contribute to the content of the paper. A great example is again [news.com](http://www.news.com), where each of the articles has a big Talk Back button, leading to the shared conversation area where all the messages from the readers appear in real time.

True, there is a Talk section in *The Guardian*, but you have to go to a separate area to enter it, by which time I usually forget what my com-

ment was about and end up quitting the site. A real-time bulletin board exists on *The Scotsman*, but skews the interactive communication toward the techies, as it only appears on the technical section. The same goes for *The Independent Online*.

However, the Scotsman scores for the use of cool tools that exploit the interactive nature of the Net. My favourite is the Family Notice section, which has space for obituaries or wedding announcements. It would be even more useful to have e-mail links, so friends and relations could send a message directly to the family or person. There is also a live webcam showing Princes Street in Edinburgh, which indicates the traffic levels and parking space (or rather lack of it) very handy if you're planning to go shopping.

Finally, newspapers evolved from bits of paper nailed to a tree next to the busiest market stall. Thus traditional newspapers are market-

places, but their interactive equivalents here in the UK seem to shy away from a bit of trading excitement. On the *San Jose Mercury News* site in California, you can buy and sell used cars, get a new house in Palo Alto, or rent a TV cheaply. Here in the UK, in contrast, online classifieds are often out of date and, more importantly, placed on separate sites that are not always easy to find.

All in all it adds up to a poor showing by UK newspapers, considering the talent, not to mention the budgets, being poured into electronic publishing. Lack of real-time delivery, disregard for hypertext, and a reluctance to give the reader a voice over and above a simple poll, are all good reasons to rely on the Americans for true interactive newspapers, at least for the time being.

Mail your views on online newspapers to [eva@never.com](mailto:eva@never.com)

### BYTES

ANDY OLDFIELD



**MICROSOFT** LAST week scored an embarrassing own goal in the anti-trust case brought against it by the US Department of Justice (DOJ) when it was forced to admit that its video evidence was not what it appeared to be. Throughout the week, a video bad been used to demonstrate the software company's claims that removing browser elements from Windows 98, which the DOJ says can be done using a program written for the Princeton computer scientist Edward Felten, causes severe degradation of system performance.

The tape was introduced into evidence by James Alchin, a Microsoft executive, as a rebuttal of the DOJ's case, showing the difficulties that a machine running Felten's program had in connecting to the Windows 98 update site on the Web.

However, David Boies showed in cross-examination that the tape was not a real-time demonstration, as it purported to be, but was made of scenes that had been spliced together from a series of different computers with different system set-ups.

Microsoft eventually admitted that the video was an "illustration" rather than footage of a real test. Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson said this meant that the tape was no longer credible. In a conference with lawyers, he said that he did not believe Microsoft had set out to deceive him with the video, but that Boies had done "a very professional job of discrediting those tapes".

Microsoft was given leave to perform the tests again in the presence of government lawyers and computer experts. Alchin, however, did not perform all the tests from the original video, maintaining that they had to be done "under laboratory conditions".

He did demonstrate some bugs in the DOJ program and showed that despite the presence of the program, it was still possible to browse the Web using other functions built into Windows.

**PRIVACY** GROUPS and activists were not impressed with Intel's offer of a software patch to turn off the identification features of its Pentium III chip, due for release this month. After a meeting in Washington last week with Intel about the privacy implications of the technology - which is intended to ease e-commerce by making transactions and a user's movements across the Net, easily traceable - the Electronic Privacy Information Center (Epic), JunkBusters and Privacy International said they would enlist the aid of consumer organisations to extend their call for a boycott of Intel products.

Marc Rotenberg, director of Epic, said that Intel's software proposal was not a tenable solution.

"The processor serial number identifier would be in the hardware," he said.

"Once it is in the hardware it is hard to disable." He added that the groups had petitioned the US Federal Trade Commission about a potential recall of the chips Intel has already shipped to computer manufacturers.

The FTC said that it was unclear what it could do. "We have looked to self-regulation to create a greater sense of privacy, which would result in more consumer confidence online," explained Victoria Streiffeld, an FTC spokeswoman. "It's a novel issue that underscores the need for consumer privacy protections online."

**LYCOS** LAUNCHED a new service last week providing links to more than half a million songs in the controversial MP3 format that is popular with music fans, but which many record labels oppose on the grounds that it makes piracy too easy.

"We took a look at what

words people were most often searching for online,

and within the Lycos network, 'MP3' was the second most often searched word, after 'sex', a Lycos spokesman said.

Although the search engine, which will be updated hourly to cut down on dead links, will not distinguish between legal and illegal recordings, Lycos said that it will work with the Recording Industry Association of America and do whatever it can to combat piracy.

Meanwhile, MP3 received another boost when the GoodNoise website won the National Music Publishers Association's first digital phonorecord delivery licence for delivering tracks in MP3.

The licence covers mechanical rights, and paves the way for MP3 to be a legitimate, mainstream means of distribution. The day after gaining the licence, GoodNoise revealed that it had done a deal with the independent record label Rykodisc to offer its music for download at 99 cents per track.

**COMPETITION** AMONG free Internet service providers is likely to accelerate next month when Martin Dawes Communications introduces the subscription-free BreatheNet using Unified Call Management technology, which allows members to access e-mail by phone without a computer. The technology also allows voicemail, faxes and e-mails to be collected from BreatheNet's Web site.

The first aim of the company - which expects to make an initial loss - is to win more members than Freeserve, which currently has more than a million users.

## Our schoolchildren are still waiting, Mr Blair



Information rich: all teachers want are the tools to help them improve the way in which they offer subjects to their pupils

Peter Macdiarmid

### Derek Wyatt, left, takes the Government to task for failing properly to plan, fund and put into effect the National Grid for Learning



**I**magine my elation at being sent a paper by the Department for Education and Employment entitled Connecting the Learning Society (also referred to as National Grid for Learning: the Government's Consultation Paper) back in those heady days of October 1997. It asked for expressions of interest by December 1997.

I've learnt that government pa-

pers are just as interesting for what

they leave out as for what they contain.

This paper had an enormous

black hole - no budgets attached

and no strategy for implementation.

I concluded that the civil servants and consultants who had put this together were hoping that the IT industry would come bearing gifts.

For me, I thought the docu-

ment was back to front. I also

thought that, if Tony Blair was con-

vinced of the need to deliver 25 per

cent of government electronically by

2002, the Department for Education

and Employment (DfEE) would be

devoting their plans with his. After

all, as a government, we are also

working on the Department of Social

Services' smart card projects; we're

over budget and woefully behind on

the ICL Post Office Counters project;

then there's the National Health

Services' operations booking system

announced last week by Frank Dobson, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office's intranet deal, and so on.

Only last week, the Contributions

Agency said it had serious doubts

about Andersen Consulting being

able to deliver a fully functional

National Insurance recording system;

then, amusingly, the Cabinet Office

paid a newly privatised computer

centre £29,000 in interest on money

it later discovered was its own.

Governments have made too

many mistakes in the purchase and

implementation of computer hard-

ware and software systems over the last 15 years, wasting billions of pounds in the process. You would think someone in government would begin to comprehend that a single co-ordinator in the Cabinet Office was required.

Before we can do any of these IT projects, we have to have a broadband strategy and structure in place and it has to be properly funded. We have none of these *in situ*, but another discussion paper is due shortly from the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

I visited Singapore One (at my own expense) two weeks ago. We cannot embrace the thinking behind Intelligent City unless we establish the ground rules for broadband. The National Grid for Learning (NGL) wanted to go round this problem. It

wanted to create a mosaic at a local level. Cities and counties would be linked first, and then these links would be drawn together into some kind of national framework.

I thought this plan rather odd. The Government owns the copyright to the National Curriculum. It owns the rights to the books published on it, the examinations that reflect it and any programming on television, radio, video and the Net. When the Open University's funding was agreed, the Government annexed £3m from the licence fee to fund the programming budget. Currently, the BBC's education spend is £60m a year, and its online budget is more than £20m. It has arrogantly established its own learning channels instead of coming to the Government to create the NGL. Amazingly, the DfEE, according to a document

leaked to the *Financial Times*, is willing to pay an extra £20m to set up its own learning channel to supplement the NGL.

Before we build the NGL, (and the University for Industry and all our Lifelong Learning Initiatives), we need a national grid to be in place. Once this was agreed, we could borrow from the ITV system. That is, at the centre would be the strategists, deciding on the NGL's hardware and software. Tender documents would be established for the publishing, broadcasting (irrespective of platform) and examination contracts. These would have the potential to earn huge revenue.

In the regions based on the map of the Regional Development Authorities and the Welsh Assembly (Scotland and Northern Ireland follow different curricula), further ten-

der documents would be prepared to licence not just the NGL but also other electronic government services, which would thus be provided free or as-free to the Government.

If this model were unpalatable, then there is no reason why the BBC, Channel 4 and BSkyB with, say, a Yahoo! or a Doring Kindersley, should not be brought together by the Government to provide the central services. This could be funded in just the same way as the Open University - from the licence fee.

All teachers want are the tools to help them improve the way in which they offer subjects to their pupils. This would in turn aid the drive to improve standards. Headteachers and governors do not want large Internet bills one year hence, when the initial "free" trial is over. Teachers should not have been issued with laptops; you cannot see the screens in a classroom and therefore they cannot be used as teaching aids, except by a small number of pupils.

Teachers complain to me that they are taught on Pentium PCs and then come back to school to their 386s. Has every local education authority undertaken an IT audit? If so, could these be published, so we know what the UK picture looks like?

As I said in the adjournment debate about libraries last week, there are schools that still qualify as "information poor" because of the lack of properly equipped and properly staffed school libraries. We need a strategy that makes libraries the centre of the intelligent school for the 21st century. We have been waiting for the Government's intentions with respect to the NGL for more than a year. I year for it.

The writer is Labour MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, and founder and co-chair of the All Party Internet Committee

### ONLINE OBJECTIVES FOR OUR SCHOOLS

- Shelve any further NGL initiatives until a broadband strategy is in place.
- Remove VAT from the purchase of all computers for educational purposes.
- Agree a deal with BBC, C4 and BSkyB to create a NGL television channel.
- Start to put into place the national hardware and software
- centre on the ITV model at the British Library (space available) or at C4/BBC/BSkyB or at Oxford University.
- Put a tender document out to create the regional hubs for the delivery of the NGL.
- Agree to provide free Internet access to all our schools for the next five years.
- Organise UK-wide computer holiday boot camps (as they do in Singapore and America) to improve the skills of our school communities.

The processor serial number identifier would be in the hardware," he said.





## CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITIES

The Eclipse Computing Group specialises in the supply, implementation and support of corporate accounting and financial management solutions globally. Established in 1986, Eclipse Computing is recognised as one of the premier suppliers in this highly sophisticated field. Due to unprecedented levels of success, Eclipse Computing are looking to fill the following positions globally.

## Senior Sales Consultant (up to £40k Basic; OTE £70k)

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As a member of our Consultancy Team you will:

- have proven experience of implementing financial systems on SQL and Oracle platforms
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If you are interested in pursuing a career in financial management software and would like to discuss any of these positions in more detail, please submit a CV and covering letter, detailing salary expectations to Helen Bishop, Eclipse Computing plc, Mansell Court, 68 Mansell Street, London E1 8AN quoting ref. 10299. Alternatively submit your application at [www.eclipserecruit.com](http://www.eclipserecruit.com).

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## 16/LISTINGS

THE MONDAY REVIEW  
The Independent 8 February 1999

**ROMFORD**  
ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm; Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm Very Bad Things 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

**ODEON LIBERTY 2** (08705 050007) BR: Romford A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 2.20pm, 3.45pm, 4.45pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8.15pm, 9pm; Enemy of the State 12.45pm, 6.10pm; Little Voice 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm; Living Loud 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm; Practical Magic 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm; Shakespeare in Love 12.20pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm; Stepmom 12.10pm, 5pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm Very Bad Things 3.45pm, 8.55pm.

**SIDCUP**  
ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup A Bug's Life 6.15pm, 8.45pm; Shakespeare in Love 5.15pm, 8.15pm.

**STAPLES CORNER**  
VIRGIN (0870-5070717) BR: Cleveland A Bug's Life 2.20pm, 3.30pm, 4.40pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8.30pm; Enemy of the State 9.10pm; Stella Got Her Groove Back 3pm, 6pm, 8.45pm; The Parent Trap 12.15pm; Practical Magic 3.10pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm; Shakespeare in Love 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm; Stepmom 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm Very Bad Things 9.15pm.

**STREATHAM**  
ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill Living Out Loud 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm; Meet Joe Black 7.15pm; Shakespeare in Love 2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.25pm; Star Trek: Insurrection 2.15pm, 4.50pm.

**ODEON** (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill/Brixton/Clapham Common A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8.25pm; How Stella Got Her Groove Back 3pm, 6pm, 8.45pm; The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm; Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm; Stepmom 12.20pm, 5pm, 8.40pm, 8.20pm Very Bad Things 8.20pm.

**STRATFORD**  
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-888990) BR: New Stratford A Bug's Life 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 8.10pm; How Stella Got Her Groove Back 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm; Shakespeare in Love 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm; Stepmom 1.05pm, 3.50pm, 8.30pm Very Bad Things 6.30pm.

**SURRY QUAYS**  
UCI (0990-888990) BR: Surrey Quays 1.50pm; Babe: Pig in the City 2pm; A Bug's Life 1.50pm, 2.10pm, 3.40pm, 4.30pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8.20pm; Enemy of the State 9.20pm; Hideous Kinky 1.45pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 8.45pm; How Stella Got Her Groove Back 4pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm; Shakespeare in Love 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm; Stepmom 1.05pm, 3.50pm, 8.30pm Very Bad Things 6.30pm.

**THAMES**  
ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Thames A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 2.20pm, 3.45pm, 4.45pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8.30pm; Enemy of the State 9.10pm; Stella Got Her Groove Back 3pm, 6pm, 8.45pm; The Parent Trap 12.15pm; Practical Magic 3.10pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm; Shakespeare in Love 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm; Stepmom 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm Very Bad Things 9.15pm.

**THURSTON**  
ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Thurston A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 2.20pm, 3.45pm, 4.45pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8.30pm; Enemy of the State 9.10pm; Stella Got Her Groove Back 3pm, 6pm, 8.45pm; The Parent Trap 12.15pm; Practical Magic 3.10pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm; Shakespeare in Love 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm; Stepmom 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm Very Bad Things 9.15pm.

**WATFORD**  
ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Watford A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 2.20pm, 3.45pm, 4.45pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8.30pm; Enemy of the State 9.10pm; Stella Got Her Groove Back 3pm, 6pm, 8.45pm; The Parent Trap 12.15pm; Practical Magic 3.10pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm; Shakespeare in Love 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm; Stepmom 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm Very Bad Things 9.15pm.

**WEYBRIDGE**  
ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Weybridge A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 9pm; Stepmom 1.40pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

**WILTHAMSTOW**  
ABC (0870-9020424) BR: Wilthamstow Central A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm Little Voice 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Very Bad Things 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm.

**WILFORD HALL**  
CORONET (0181-888990) BR: Eltham A Bug's Life 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Little Voice 4.15pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm Very Bad Things 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm.

**WILLESDEN**  
ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Willesden A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 9pm; Stepmom 1.40pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

**WILTON ON THAMES**  
THE SCREEN AT WILTON (01932-152025) BR: Wilton on Thames Shakespeare in Love 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.35pm; Stepmom 2.50pm, 5.45pm, 8.15pm.

**WIMBLEDON**  
ODEON (08705 050007) BR: South Wimbledon A Bug's Life 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm Little Voice 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Very Bad Things 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.25pm.

**WILDLINCH**  
ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Woolwich Arsenal A Bug's Life 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Very Bad Things 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm.

**WILKESON**  
ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Wilkeson A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm Little Voice 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Very Bad Things 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.25pm.

**WILLOW**  
ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Woodford A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm Little Voice 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Very Bad Things 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.25pm.

**WILLOWICK**  
ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Woodlark A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm Little Voice 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Very Bad Things 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.25pm.

**WILTON**  
ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Wilton A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm Little Voice 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Very Bad Things 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.25pm.

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**WILTON**  
ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Wilton A Bug

heels off key

**RADIO 1**  
97.6-99.8MHz FM  
6.30 Zoe Ball 8.00 Simon Mayo.  
12.00 Kevin Greene. 2.00  
Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris  
Moyles. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00  
Dave Pearce. 8.00 Lamacq Live.  
12.00 The Breezeblock. 2.00  
Clive Warren. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott  
Mills.

**RADIO 2**  
88.9-92.4MHz FM  
6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Wake Up  
to Wogan. 9.30 Richard Allinson.  
12.00 Jimmy Young. Talking to  
the people who make the news. Phone  
the comment line on 0500 288281.  
Lines open from 11.30am to 11.55pm.  
2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie  
Walker. 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton.  
8.00 Big Band Legends Live:  
Michael Parkinson introduces a six-  
part series featuring big band  
bandleaders in concert with the  
BBC Big Band. 8.30 Jools Holland.  
9.30 Mark Lamarr: Shake,  
Rattle and Roll. 10.30 Nicky  
Home. 12.00 Katrina Leekanich.  
3.00 - 4.00 Mo Dutta.

**RADIO 3**  
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)

6.00 On Air.  
9.00 Masterworks.  
10.30 Artist of the Week.  
11.00 Sound Stories.  
12.00 Composer of the Week:  
Georg Philipp Telemann.  
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Con-  
cert.  
2.00 The BBC Orchestras.  
4.00 Opera in Action.  
4.45 Music Machine.  
5.00 In Tune.  
7.30 Performance on 3. Conductor  
Jerzy Maksymiuk, Patricia  
Rozario (soprano), Kodaly: Pea-  
cock Variations. Cantolube:  
Songs of the Auvergne (excerpts),  
Stravinsky: Petrushka (1947 ver-  
sion).  
9.05 Postscript. Five pro-  
grammes celebrating 50 years of  
photojournalism from the world's  
most famous photo agency. 1:  
'The Way the World Washes'. (R)  
9.30 Beecham Conducts Bizet,  
Symphony in C. French National  
Radio Orchestra/Thomas  
Beecham.  
10.00 Voices. 'Songs of Inno-  
cence and Experience'. Iain Burn-  
side unearths a clutch of songs to

The sitcom blues

## MONDAY RADIO

### PICK OF THE DAY

**ANNA PAVORD**, this paper's  
gardening correspondent, has  
plucked the best parts of her  
new book, *The Tulip* (9.45am  
RAFMD), to read this week. This  
definitive history describes the  
fanatical devotion the flower has  
inspired since it arrived in  
Western Europe 400 years ago.

Given the current concern  
about fake TV docu-snaps, *Two  
Flies on the Wall* (8pm R4), the

edited highlights of six months  
spent "observing the observers",  
couldn't be more timely. Paul  
Watson attempts to make a  
distinction between the stitch-up  
and cutting-room manipulation.  
In *Mixing It* (10.45pm R3),  
Velvet Underground lynchpin  
John Cale (right) talks about  
musical influences from his  
boyhood onwards.

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

texts by William Blake, who has  
inspired a wide and surprising  
range of songwriters.

**10.45 Mixing It** John Cale shares  
his choice of three key tracks with  
Mark Russell and Robert Sandall.  
See *Pick of the Day*.

**11.30 Jazz Notes**

**12.00 Composers of the Week:**

**1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night**

**RADIO 4** (92.4-94.6MHz FM)

6.00 Today.

**9.00 NEWS: Start the Week.**

**9.45 Serial: The Tulip.** See *Pick  
of the Day*.

**10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.**

11.00 Life in the Workhouse.

**11.30 Bangers and Mash.**

**12.00 NEWS: You end Yours.**

**12.57 Weather.**

**1.00 The World at One.**

**1.30 Counterpoint.**

**2.00 NEWS: The Archers.**

**2.15 Afternoon Play: The True  
Memoirs of Harriette Wilson.**

**3.00 NEWS: Money Box Live:**

0870 010 0444.

**3.30 Going, Going, Gone.** (R)

**4.00 NEWS: The Food Pro-  
gramme.**

**4.30 Turning World.**

**5.57 Weather.**

**6.00 Six O'Clock News.**

**6.30 Just a Minute.**

**7.00 NEWS: The Archers.**

**7.45 Front Row.** Fifty years after  
the first performance of 'Death of a  
Salesman', Francine Stock in-  
vestigates the continuing power of

Arthur Miller's downtrodden hero  
Willy Loman.

**7.45 Speaking for Themselves:**  
Ten dramatised excerpts from the  
letters of Britain's great wartime  
leader and his wife Clementine,

taken from the newly published

collection edited by their daughter,

Mary Soames. With Alex Jennings  
as Winston, Sylvester Le Touzel as  
Clementine, and Helen Bourne as

the narrator. Part 6.

**8.00 NEWS: Two Flies on the  
Wall.** The first in a two-part look  
at the creation of a fly-on-the-wall

documentary as the team who  
make one of television's most pop-  
ular soaps, 'Vets in Practice', get a

taste of their own treatment. Nar-  
rated by David Stafford. See *Pick  
of the Day*.

**8.30 In Business.** 'It's Your Line.'

Mobile phone use is exploding  
and there is much more to come.  
Peter Day explores a new ob-  
session.

**9.00 NEWS: Nature.** A look at the  
recipe for a good garden - the key  
ingredient being the understand-  
ing of its ecology.

**9.30 Start the Week.** Jeremy

Paxman and his guests set the  
cultural agenda for the week.

**10.00 The World Tonight.** With  
Robin Lustig.

**10.45 Book at Bedtime:** Mark

Twain Stories. Comedy star

Kelsey Grammer reads five tales

by the master storyteller, abridged

by Duncan Minshull. 1: 'A Day at

Niagara'. A visit to the Falls re-  
veals a modern-day theme park in

all its glory. (R)



news from across the rest of Eu-  
rope.

**10.00 Late Night Live.** Nick  
Robinson sets tomorrow's agenda  
today. Including at 10.30 a full

round-up of the day's sport, and

at 11.00 a late news briefing.

**1.00 Up All Night.**

**5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.**

**CLASSIC FM** (100.0-101.9MHz FM)

**6.00 Nick Bailey.** 8.00 Henry  
Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Con-  
certo: Vlotti: Symphonie Concer-  
tante No 1 in F. Roberto Baraldi  
and Alberto Martini (violins). Ac-  
cademia I Filarmonici/Aldo Stillo.

**3.00 Jamie Crichton.** 3.00 News-  
night. 7.00 Smooth Classics at  
Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert:

Neruda: Trumpet Concerto in E  
flat. Crispian Steele-Perkins,  
ECO/Anthony Haislam. Strauss:

Horn Concerto No 2 in E flat.

David Pyatt, Britten

Sinfonia/Nicholas Cleobury.

Michael Haydn: Trombone Concer-  
to in D. Alain Trudel. Northern Sin-  
fonia. Brahms: Trio in E flat for  
violin, horn and piano. Op 40.

Francis Alton (horn), Arthur Grum-  
ioux (violin), Gyorgy Sebok (piano).

Glinka: Serenade on Themes from

Donizetti's 'Anna Bolena' in E flat.

Russian National Orchestra

Soloists Ensemble. 11.00 Michael

Meppin. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 -

6.00 Mark Griffiths.

**VIRGIN RADIO** (25.197-250.2MHz MW 105MHz FM)

**6.30 Chris Evans.** 9.30 Mark For-  
rest. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Harri-  
ett Scott. 7.30 Pete & Geoff.

**10.00 James Merritt.** 1.00 Steve

Power. 4.30 - 6.30 Richard Allen.

**WORLD SERVICE RADIO** (198kHz LW)

**1.00 The World Today.** 1.30

Westway. 1.45 Record News.

**2.00 The World Today.** 2.30 The

Next Big Thing. 3.00 The World

Today. 3.20 Sports Roundup.

3.30 World Business Report.

3.45 Insight. 4.00 - 7.00 The

World Today (4.00-7.00).

**TALK RADIO**

**6.00 Big Boys Breakfast** with

David Banks & Nick Ferrari. 9.00

Scott Chisholm. 1.00 Anna Rae-  
burn. 4.00 Peter Deely. 5.00

The SportZone. 8.00 James

Whale. 1.00 - 6.00 Ian Collins.

## INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

### CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

THE PETROFF or Russian Defence

- 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 - was once  
thought of as a relatively safe option.  
However, Black's immediate  
counter-attack, which in some sense  
claims immediate field equality, can  
instead be seen as mildly hubristic  
or an over-assessment of his  
chances. So it is that this once  
placid opening has today devel-  
oped a huge body of theory, some of  
it immensely sharp.

Artur Yusupov is a genial bear of  
a man, ferociously concentrated at  
the chessboard but utterly charm-  
ing away from it. Born in Moscow,  
he has since the break-up of the  
old Soviet Union made his home in  
Germany. A world expert on the Petroff,  
Yusupov has now written a massive  
treatise on it in English for the Ger-  
man publishing house Olms - *The  
Petroff Defence* - £20.

In 344 packed pages, Yusupov  
treats the opening in three distinct  
ways: tabular analysis as in opening  
encyclopaedias, illustrative games  
and - this an innovation for me and  
an excellent idea - numerous ex-  
ercises to help the reader assimilate  
the often highly volatile material.

With this excellent format, the  
book will age considerably more  
slowly than habitual opening works:  
just as well, for Yusupov, who has  
obviously put in a huge amount of  
work, was unlucky in that Olms took  
a considerable time to process it.

Rather than an example from the  
book, here instead is another pos-  
ition from last weekend's Bundesliga  
showing Yusupov's innate  
common sense and kindness.

In the diagram, Nils Michaelen  
is Black to play; Christian Gabriel  
is White.

## BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

"YOU NEEDED the nine of clubs  
instead of the eight," I observed  
South after converting a small plus  
score into a small minus on this  
deal. North tactfully refrained from  
suggesting that an alternative line  
of play would have justified his  
partner's decision to bid on.

South opened One Heart, West  
doubled, and North redoubled -  
not everyone's choice of bid. East  
bid Three Diamonds pre-emptively  
and South, expecting his partner to  
be short in hearts, tried Four  
Diamonds (although what this was  
intended to achieve is still a mys-  
tery to me) but he was reassured  
when North was able to bid Four  
Hearts. It was not over yet - East  
tried what would have been a good  
sacrifice with Five Diamonds, but  
South went on to Five Hearts to end  
the auction.

West started with two top dia-  
monds and, after ruffing, declarer  
drew trumps and tested the spades  
with the king and ace. When they  
failed to break (surprise, surprise!)  
he led ♦Q to West's ace. West ex-  
ited with ♦Q to dummy's king and  
now declarer ruffed dummy's last  
diamond and played off his last  
trump. West retained his spade  
guard and East was able to look  
after the third round of clubs with  
his nine, and so South ended a  
trick short.

Rather than rely on what was an  
unlikely spade break (with some  
residual squeeze chances), South  
had an alternative which would  
have succeeded as the cards lay.  
Suppose, after drawing trumps, he  
leads ♦10 from hand? West pre-  
sumably covers with his jack and  
♦K wins. Now a spade to the ace  
drops the nine from East and South  
plays off his remaining trumps. West  
must come down to ♦J 10 7 ♦A and now he can be  
thrown in with ♦A to lead away  
from his spades.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD



ROBERT HANKS

TELEVISION REVIEW

BY JONATHAN BROWN

BBC1

18.00

Business Breakfast (6.25-7.00)

8.40 News (7.47-8.31)

9.00 Kith (8.31) (8.43-8.50)

8.48 The Verbasco Show (8.51-8.58)

9.00 News (8.59-9.00)

9.45 Weather (9.01-9.08)

10.00 Real Romeo (9.09-9.16)

10.45 News (9.17-9.24)

11.00 Weather (9.25-9.32)

11.45 Weather (9.33-9.40)

12.00 Call My Bluff (9.41-9.48)

12.45 Who's On (9.49-9.56)

13.00 The Weather Show (9.57-9.58)

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